

HSS Engineers denies involvement in drawdown of RM1.3 bil MEX II sukuk under MACC probe

BY EMIR ZAINUL
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KUALA LUMPUR (June 11): HSS Engineers Bhd (KL:HSSEB) has denied any involvement in the drawdown of funds from the RM1.3 billion sukuk financing for the troubled Maju Expressway Extension (MEX II) project, which is currently under investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

HSS Engineers served as the design consultant for the project, which entails design and construction supervision works, including certifying payments related to construction costs, said HSS Engineers executive vice-chairman Tan Sri Kunasingam Sittampalam (pic).

“There are many parts to the loan facility — pre-operational, incidental, construction-related costs, and everything else,” he said at a press conference on Tuesday. “We only certify payments for the construction [costs].”

On whether HSS Engineers had verified that MEX II was 89% complete, given its role in certifying construction payments, Kunasingam said he was unable to comment as the matter is under MACC investigation.

“We have extended our full cooperation to MACC, including providing all relevant details and supporting documents. It is best to allow the investigation to run its course and await the outcome,” he said.

The MEX II highway — an 18km extension from the MEX Putrajaya Interchange to

Misappropriation of funds for highway project: MACC records statement of ‘Tan Sri’

Bernama

KUALA LUMPUR (June 11): The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on Wednesday recorded the statement of an individual with the title “Tan Sri” for six hours in connection with the investigation into the alleged misappropriation of sukuk funds for the construction of a highway in the Klang Valley.

MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the process of recording the statement, which began at about 9am, ended at 3pm and will continue on Thursday (June 12). He said that due to the Tan Sri’s health condition, the process of recording the statement was con-

ducted at his house in the Klang Valley.

“So far, MACC has recorded statements from 52 witnesses, including the Tan Sri and his family members...the same process will continue tomorrow,” Azam said when contacted on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the MACC also conducted a raid at the Tan Sri’s residence in Melaka, but nothing was seized or confiscated.

Previously, it was reported that the MACC seized various assets, including handbags, jewellery, luxury vehicles, watches, cash, and a luxury residence, estimated at approximately RM32 million, believed to belong to a highway concessionaire with the title Tan Sri.



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the KLIA highway — has long been mired in delays. Despite being scheduled for completion in 2019, construction has stalled with the project reportedly 89% complete, though this figure remains unverified.

The project concessionaire, MEX II Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd, began defaulting on sukuk payments in 2021. The company has since undergone failed restructuring attempts and is now under receivership.

On Wednesday, Kunasingam also highlighted that HSS Engineers had written down over RM10 million in its 2022 ac-

counts related to unpaid dues from MEX II.

Last month, MACC revealed that it has launched three investigations into alleged bribery and false claims tied to the MEX II project, which includes RM361 million in purportedly falsified claims and RM416 million in alleged false disclosures related to sukuk proceeds and bank loans.

The alleged false claims are linked to the RM1.3 billion sukuk issued in 2016 to finance the project. A further RM12 million in alleged bribes is also being investigated.

MACC has arrested nine people so far and recorded 31 statements, according to Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki. Authorities have also seized RM2.9 million in cash, luxury vehicles worth RM900,000, and frozen bank accounts totalling RM34 million.



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KUALA LUMPUR (June 11): Malaysia’s unemployment rate fell to its lowest in a decade as the number of people employed rose amid an expanding labour force, official data on Wednesday showed.

Unemployment rate in April was 3.0%, the lowest since April 2015, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement. Economists generally consider a 3% unemployment rate as the economy having full employment.

“The country’s labour force is anticipated to remain optimistic and expand in the coming months of 2025, bolstered by strong economic policies and stable domestic demand,” DOSM commented.

Malaysia’s unemployment rate at 10-year low, official data show

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Despite the global geopolitical tensions, Malaysia’s labour force is seen to remain resilient due to stable unemployment, the growing services sector and technology, as well as an increasing investment in digitalisation and automation, the department added.

During the month, the number of unemployed persons fell to 525,900 in April from 529,600 in March. The labour force, meanwhile, expanded 0.2% to 17.34 million. Labour force participation rate, the proportion of employed persons within the entire working population, edged up 0.1 percentage point to 70.8%.

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