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# Senior PWD, TNB, City Hall officers held for graft

**RM13M IN ACCOUNTS FROZEN:** Trio detained in KL, Malacca and Kelantan

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**T**HREE senior officers, including a Datuk Seri and a Datuk, were arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) yesterday for corruption, abuse of power and money laundering.

The trio, who are in their 50s, were arrested in operations conducted simultaneously in Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Kelantan.

MACC investigations director Datuk Azam Baki said more than RM13 million in the trio's accounts was frozen.

"(These accounts) comprised saving accounts and unit trusts worth RM1 million to RM6 million.

"During the raids, MACC officers also seized several condominiums, including a penthouse, a bungalow and luxury cars, such as Maserati, BMW and Audi, believed to have been obtained from the proceeds of corruption and money laundering.

"MACC found RM400,000 in cash, foreign currency and several luxury wristwatches," he said.

Azam told the *New Straits Times* that the cash was found stashed in the ceiling of an officer's home in Malacca.

Sources said the cases were linked. A source said the man ar-

rested in Kuala Lumpur was attached to Kuala Lumpur City Hall, while the one arrested in Malacca was with the Public Works Department. The man arrested in Kelantan was a senior officer with Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

Azam said the trio's arrest, between noon and 2pm, was in line with the statement by MACC chief commissioner Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad, who had pledged to wipe out corruption and abuse of power by civil servants.

The cases are being investigated under Sections 17(a) and 23 of the MACC Act 2009 and Section 4(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

Under the MACC Act 2009, convicted offenders can be sentenced to 20 years in prison, fined RM10,000 or five times the bribe, whichever is higher.

For an offence under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, offenders are liable to imprisonment not exceeding 15 years and a fine of not less than five times the sum or value of the proceeds of an unlawful activity or RM5 million, whichever

is higher.

Azam said the investigation was ongoing and that the detainees were expected to be remanded today.

Sources said the City Hall officer was expected to be produced at the Putrajaya magistrate's court here at 9am, while the officers in Malacca and Kelantan would be produced at the Ayer Keroh and Kota Baru magistrate's courts at 10am and 11am, respectively.

In **Kota Baru**, sources said the TNB senior officer had some RM1.3 million worth of properties and unit trusts seized by an MACC team, which detained him at his office at 2pm.

"Initial investigations showed that the officer had been (abusing his power) over the past six years. He is believed to have collected properties, including luxury cars over the years.

"The officer also owned a company and has been using it (to abuse his power). MACC also suspects his relatives are involved," said a source.

"The commission urges the head of (TNB) to check on its officers to prevent them from being involved in any wrongdoing as MACC will not hesitate to take action against those breaching the law," Azam told the NST.

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He said MACC was expected to make more arrests in Kelantan in the coming days. **Additional reporting by Fairuz Mohd Shahar and Zahratul-hayat Mat Arif**

## MACC to study claims of corruption in market case

**MALACCA:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will study the allegation of corruption in the damage to the structure of the Melaka Central Market in Peringgit.

Malacca MACC director Datuk Azmi Alias said they would study the allegation of corruption under the MACC Act 2009 for abuse of power.

"We sent officials to look at the Melaka Central Market last week. If there is evidence of corruption, we will begin an investigation," he said

yesterday.

Damage to the structure of the 12-year-old building, which poses a danger to traders and patrons, had gone viral in cyberspace.

Media reports said the Malacca government's decision to relocate 342 traders at the Melaka Central Market was due to sinkholes that affected the structure.

Initial investigations revealed that the contractors involved did not comply with the construction plan, especially the piling work. **Bernama**



**Datuk Azam Baki**



**An Audi and Maserati, believed to have been obtained from the proceeds of corruption and money laundering, were seized in the operations by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.**