

News Alert – Urgent Topics (5 April 2019)

Issue: Menara Felcra Project

Title: Felcra used RM500m meant for aid money to finance Menara Felcra

Source: The Edge Financial Daily (3 April 2019)

Synopsis:

In respond to question raised in the parliament on why the living aid to Felcra participants was no longer available, the Deputy Economic Affairs Minister Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin answered that Felcra Bhd has to cut its living aid to its scheme as RM500 million in funds originally earmarked for that were instead rerouted to the Menara Felcra project in Jalan Semarak, Kuala Lumpur.

Menara Felcra project launched in the year 2015 and is scheduled to be completed this year. Initially, the contractor of the Menara Felcra project was to design, build, and finance the entire project, and hand it over to Felcra once it is completed. However, after the project was awarded, the contractor proposed for the land to be leased to the bank for financing purposes which Felcra disagreed.

Now, Felcra could no longer finance the on-going project and additional RM400 million is needed to finish the 50% completed project. The Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali stated that the delay of the project is due to cash-flow issues of Felcra and now the government will proceed with the project and they will consider selling parts of Felcra towers if receive good offers.

Comments:

1. The RM500 million living aid to Felcra participants is not supposed to be rerouted to the Menara Felcra project under any other circumstances even though the project itself is facing cash flow issues and it is suspected that the RM500 million is used to fund the remain 50% of Menara Felcra project.
2. Felcra took over and funded the entire project claiming that they were in better position to manage the project instead of the original arrangement with, WZR Sdn Bhd. However, Felcra maintained WZR as the contractor, why?
3. Menara Felcra is expected to complete in March 2019 but why now is expecting delay?
4. The Chairman of WZR is an active member and leader of PPBM. Is there a link?

Issue: Sabah & Sarawak autonomy powers

Title: MA63 review a good move-analyst / Amendment to Article 1(2) to be tabled by next week

Source: The Edge Daily (1 & 3 April 2019)

Synopsis:

Universiti Malaya sociopolitical analyst Prof Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi commented that Government's proposal to amend Article 1 (2) of the Federal Constitution to make Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia equal partners based on the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) is a good move.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong said the proposed amendment to Article 1 (2) of the Federal Constitution to make Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia equal partners, will be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

Pakatan government tabled the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019 on April 4th, 2019.

Comments: The Bill tabled by PH were unconstitutional because Federal did not consult with Sabah & Sarawak MPs.