

aids and funds.
"Perhaps they set up facto-

tions or outsource from other countries such as Singapore

seeing that halal products are largely accepted in non-

The Malaysian government projected the country's halal

acts standing at 13.3% in 2016," he said.

"Such an experience would help in strengthening the security aspects of the public transport services provided by Prasarana," he said.

Khalid was appointed as Prasarana chairman last September, following mandatory retirement after 41 years of service with the police force.

He was the country's 10th IGP, having led the force for four years.

Khalid replaced Tan Sri Ismail Adam as Prasarana chairman, who completed his term on Aug 31 this year.

Prasarana — a wholly owned company of the Minister of Finance Inc — is the largest operator and owner of the public transport assets in Malaysia.

The company is in charge of the bus services in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan, and also operates the mass rapid transit, light rail transit and monorail services. — by P PREM KUMAR & DASHVEENJIT KAUR

Najib: F1 unprofitable due to rising costs

by P PREM KUMAR & DASHVEENJIT KAUR

MALAYSIA has stopped hosting the Formula One (F1) race as the cost has increased 10 times compared to the maiden race in 1999.

"Furthermore, the depreciation of the ringgit has also left an impact on the increase in costs that the government has to bear," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak said in a written parliamentary reply yesterday.

He was responding to a query from Pagoh MP Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who asked the government to state factors behind the suspension of the F1 race in Malaysia.

Najib also said Malaysia is no longer the only two coun-



Pic by Muhd Amia Naharul

According to Najib, a study undertaken by the govt also found there was a decline in the percentage of global viewership for the F1 races

tries, apart from Japan, to be organising the F1 race in the Asian region, hence resulting

in the loss of spectators and ticket sales.

"Apart from Malaysia,

there were five other F1 races being organised in the Asian continent — Japan, China, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Singapore.

"The multiple locations have led to a decline in the number of local and international spectators witnessing the race in Sepang," he said.

According to Najib, a study undertaken by the government also found that there was a decline in the percentage of global viewership for the F1 races held in Malaysia via electronic media.

"This indirectly shows that the sport is no longer relevant to be organised in Malaysia," he said.

In April 2009, the Sepang International Circuit Sdn Bhd, was taken over from

Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd through a share sale agreement.

Sepang International Circuit then became a wholly owned company of the Minister of Finance Inc.

The aim of establishing Sepang International Circuit was to bolster the motor sports industry in Malaysia by organising the F1 Championship and MotoGP competition, which first started in 1999.

The Finance Ministry on Dec 15, 2014, agreed to extend F1's contract to Sepang International Circuit for a three-year period from 2016 to 2018.

On April this year, the government announced that it will end its contract to host the F1 Grand Prix race from 2018.

CorporateBrief

THP net profit drops 40.3% on higher finance cost

TH PLANTATIONS Bhd's (THP) net profit fell 40.3% year-on-year (YoY) to RM11.45 million in the third quarter (3Q) ended Sept 30, due to higher finance cost caused by lower capitalisation in plantation development expenditure as more areas came to maturity, as well as higher effective tax rates recognised in 3Q.

The group's management services business recorded a pretax loss of RM5.16 million in the quarter.

Revenue for the period rose 11.3% YoY to RM189.54 million on higher production and sales volume, as well as higher average realised prices of crude palm oil (CPO).

Improved weather conditions saw fresh fruit bunches production climbing 16% YoY to 270,418 metric tonnes (MT) in 3Q.

CPO output grew 9% YoY to 55,550 MT, while average CPO trading price grew 4% YoY to RM2,662 per MT.

MSM profit sees 55.3% YoY decline in 3Q to RM10.4m

MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd profit fell 55.3% year-on-year (YoY) to RM10.4 million in the third quarter (3Q) ended Sept 30 due to the increase in raw material costs and weaker ringgit.

In a filing to Bursa Malaysia yesterday, the sugar maker and trader noted average raw sugar cost jumped 11% compared to the same period last year due to the higher market price of raw sugar.

The high cost was cushioned

by the increase in average selling price by 7% compared to the same period last year.

The 3Q revenue rose 5.6% YoY to RM668.52 million on improved selling price. This is the first quarter that the group registered a profit for the year. For the nine-month period, the group continues to operate at a net loss of RM45.66 million due to higher production costs and higher raw material cost, in tandem with the weakened ringgit and higher raw sugar cost.

IJM to carry out works for highway in India

IJM Corp Bhd will undertake infrastructure works for India's national highway valued at RM1.49 billion, after accepting an award from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

In an exchange filing yesterday, the conglomerate noted the works involve the rehabilitation, upgradation and widening of the existing two-lane carriageway to four-lane standards for the 109.1km stretch from Solapur to Bijapur.

In addition, IJM will be responsible for the construction and/or rehabilitation of highway structures — including bridges, flyovers, drainage and toll plazas, among others.

The 20-year concession is expected to be subsidised by NHAI — providing for a RM235.86 million project.

In the meantime, IJM is to carry out its responsibilities for 30 months and to complete the works by 2021.