

DATASONIC GROUP BHD

ZAHID GIVEN CHEQUES FOR RM6M, COURT TOLD

Company's deputy MD met with the then DPM to explain passport shortage, says witness

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A MALAYSIAN Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigating officer revealed that Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had received two cheques totalling RM6 million after a passport shortage problem occurred, which affected the Immigration Department's services.

Mohd Hizar Farhan Abdul Razi, 32, said the cheques were from IT services management company Datasonic Group Bhd (DGB) deputy managing director Chew Ben Ben.

DGB's subsidiary Datasonic Technologies Sdn Bhd (DTSB) was awarded a contract by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in 2015 to supply passport chips for five

years or 12.5 million chips to be inserted into the polycarbonate biodata page of Malaysian passports.

The 91st prosecution witness said on Sept 16, 2016, Chew was called to meet Zahid to explain the passport shortage.

"In mid-April 2017, Chew was again called to meet the accused at the latter's official residence at Sri Satria, Putrajaya.

"After this meeting, Chew handed two cheques totalling RM6 million to the accused," Hizar told the High Court.

He was testifying in Zahid's trial over 47 charges of money-laundering, bribery and criminal breach of trust.

Meanwhile, during the re-examination by deputy public prosecutor Gan Peng Kun, Hizar

said the contract was awarded to DTSB in line with the standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the MoF.

However, he said it would not have gone through without Zahid's agreement.

This, he said, was because Zahid was the home affairs minister

at that time.

Gan: Do you know what are the situations deemed non-compliant with the SOP?

Hizar: I don't know.

Gan: If the accused did not agree that the contract be awarded to DTSB, would MoF award the contract?

Hizar: No.

Asked by the accused's counsel, Datuk Ahmad Zaidi Zainal, why the contract would not be awarded

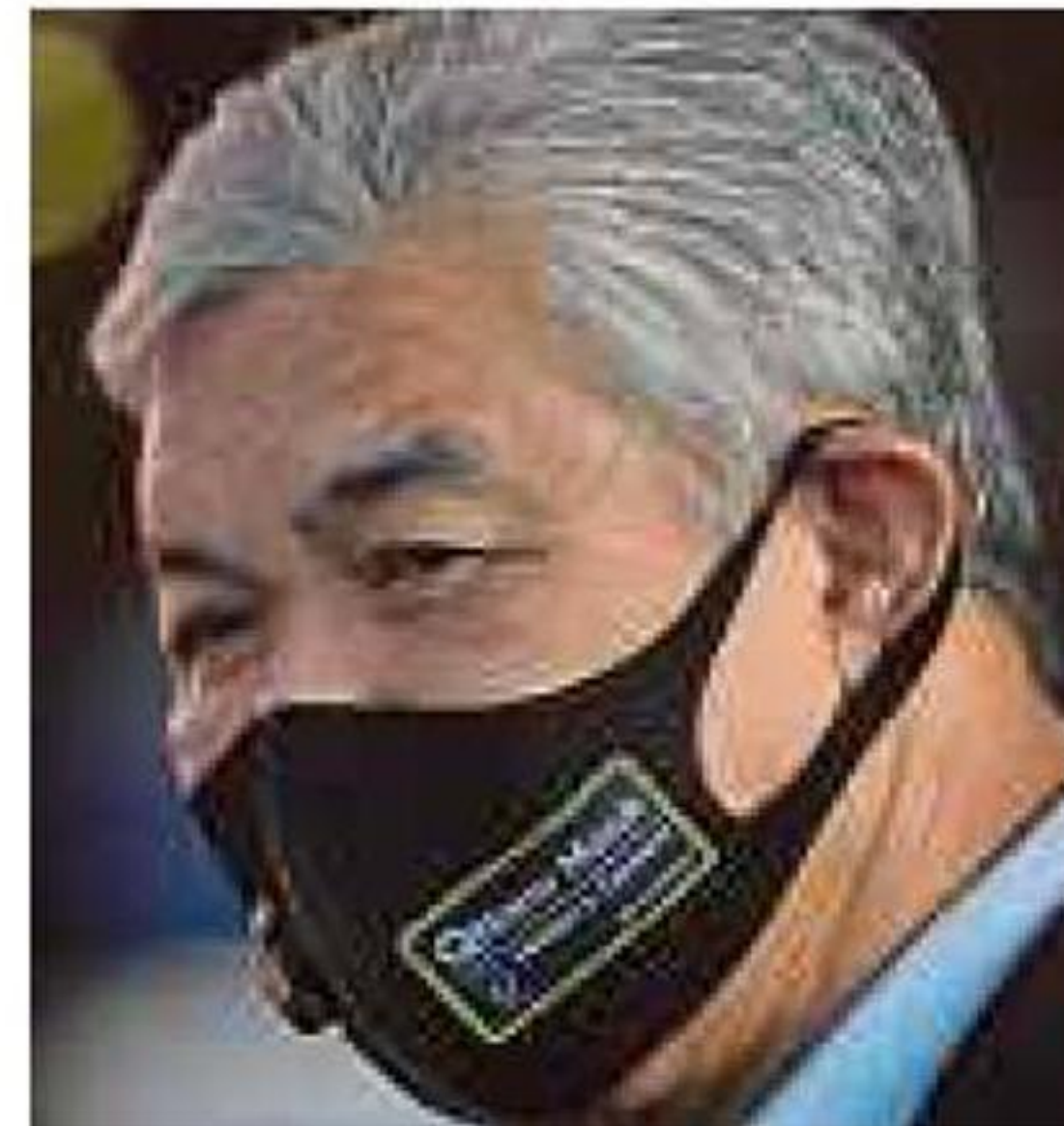
to DTSB without Zahid agreeing to it, Hizar said it was because Zahid was the home affairs minister at that time.

He also testified that the MoF has the authority to award the contract and not the Home Ministry.

DGB and DTSB were implicated in the criminal charges

against Zahid. The former deputy prime minister is accused of receiving a RM5 million cheque from Chew.

He is also charged with receiving another cheque of RM1 million from the same person in relation to the Malaysian passport chips.



Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi