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MEDIA STATEMENT REGARDING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE LAND SWAP PROCEEDING

- Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, the Menteri Besar of Johor has appeared before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as a witness in the Proceeding of the Land Swap of the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) on 4 July 2022.
- 2. He was called as the fourth witness in this proceeding after the Special Investigation Committee on Public Governance, Procurement and Finance (JKSTUPKK), chaired by Tan Sri Ambrin Buang found that he was linked to the construction of the Paloh Camp project in Kluang in 2016, through the land swap method.
- 3. Other witnesses who have been summoned by the PAC previously regarding this issue are:
 - (i) 16 November 2020 Tan Sri Ambrin Buang, Chairman of the Special Investigation Committee on Public Governance, Procurement and Finance (JKSTUPKK);
 - (ii) 30 November 2020 Datuk Seri Muez, MINDEF Secretary-General; and
 - (iii) 1 December 2021 Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Minister of Defence.

- 4. The land swap project and the construction of this new camp which began in 2012, initially involved:
 - (i) The land swap deal of the original camp which is the 94.01-acre of land of the Kinrara Camp, Selangor;
 - (ii) The construction of the Royal Malaysian Air Force facility in Sendayan, Negeri Sembilan; and
 - (iii) The construction of an army camp in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.
- However, in 2016, the proposal to build an army camp in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan was replaced with the proposal to set up the Paloh Camp in Kluang.
- 6. In the proceeding which was held at the Kluang District Office in Johor, Datuk Onn Hafiz was summoned by the PAC in his capacity as the former Political Secretary to then Minister of Defence from 2013 to 2018, and the investigation by the PAC focused on his role in the proposed construction of the Paloh Camp in Kluang which began in 2016.
- 7. MINDEF Secretary-General, Datuk Seri Muez Abd Aziz, and Deputy Secretary-General (Development), Datuk Dr. Shahrazat Ahmad also gave their statements during the proceeding.
- 8. The proceeding began at 4 p.m. and ended 2 hours later.
- 9. Prior to the proceeding, the PAC visited the Paloh Camp, covering a 65-acre of land, to look at the progress of the construction of the camp, which was to house the Headquarters of the 33rd Royal Artillery Regiment (33 RAD) and Squadron 8 of the Royal Army Engineers Regiment (RAJD).

10. The PAC will review all statements and finalise the PAC Report regarding this issue.

Thank you.

The Honourable Wong Kah Woh