

# Graft: Ex-Putatan Council Chief Executive ordered to enter defence

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*On the first count, Awang, as the Executive Officer at Putatan District Council (MDP), is accused of getting bribe of RM1,500 from Zaiton Abdul Hamid through his banking account as an inducement to provide repair works, supplies and services at MDP to Zaiton from 2016 until 2018.*

**KOTA KINABALU:** A 47-year-old former executive officer was ordered to enter his defence on 14 counts of accepting bribes amounting to RM50,500 in 2017 and 2018. Sessions Court Judge Jason Juga made the order against Awang Saifudin Jumat after ruling that the prosecution had established a prima facie case. The court set Jan 24 and 26 next year for Awang's defence. On the first count, Awang, as the Executive Officer at Putatan District Council (MDP), is accused of getting bribe of RM1,500 from Zaiton Abdul Hamid through his banking account as an inducement to provide repair works, supplies and services at MDP to Zaiton from 2016 until 2018. The offence allegedly took place on Nov 15, 2017 at Maybank Putatan. On the second and third count, he allegedly received bribes of RM2,000 on Nov 21 and another RM2,000 on Dec 2, 2017 from Zaiton for the same purpose at the same place.

On the fourth to ninth count, Awang is accused of accepting bribes of RM3,000 for each of the charge from Zaiton for the same purpose between Jan 7 and Feb 21, 2018, also in Maybank Putatan. On the 10th count, he allegedly received RM2,500 from Zaiton for the same purpose on Feb 26, 2018 at the same place. On the 11th count, he allegedly accepted bribe of RM7,500 from Zaiton for the same purpose on Feb 1, 2018 at the same place. On the 12th and 13th count, Awang is accused for getting bribe of RM4,000 and RM3,000 from Zaiton for the same purpose on Feb 7 and 9, 2018 at the same place. On the 14th count, he allegedly received another bribe of RM10,000 from Zaiton for the same purpose on Feb 11, 2018 at the same place. The offence under Section 17(a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009 and punishable under Section 24(1) of the same Act, provides for an imprisonment for up to 20 years and a fine of RM10,000 or not less than five times the amount of the bribe, whichever is higher, if found guilty. The court ordered for Awang's bail to be extended. MACC Prosecuting Officer Rekhraj Singh conducted the prosecution while counsel Zahir Shah defended Awang.