

New Straits Times Mac 2020

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1. Shafee's trial postponed to make way for Najib's ongoing trials



Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah.

KUALA LUMPUR: Prominent lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah's trial on his money-laundering and tax evasion charges has been postponed again.

The charges are in connection to a RM9.5 million payment he purportedly received from former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The trial, which was initially set to commence in March, was vacated to make way for Najib's ongoing corruption trials involving funds from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and its subsidiary, SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Shafee is the lead counsel for both of Najib's trials. He was represented today by counsel Sarah Abeshegum.

The postponement was announced by lead prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram after the matter came up before High Court judge Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin in chambers, today.

He said the court has fixed April 30 for mention.

"On the same day, we will brief the court on what is happening in the other cases (1MDB and SRC International) and the court will fix fresh dates," he said.

Shafee is facing two counts of money-laundering relating to a RM9.5 million payment he received from Najib and two counts under the Income Tax Act 1967 for making false declarations to the Inland Revenue Board by not including the amount in his tax filing for the years 2013 and 2014.

For the money-laundering charges, Shafee is alleged to have received proceeds of unlawful activities via two cheques belonging to Najib totalling RM4.3 million and RM5.2 million, on Sept 13, 2013 and Feb 17, 2014 respectively.

He faces a maximum fine of RM5 million and imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both, if convicted under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act (AMLATFA) 2001.

For the tax evasion charges, he is alleged to have committed acts contrary to Section 113 (1)(a) of the Income Tax Act by omitting the income he received in Sept 13, 2013 totalling RM4.3 million; and on Feb 17, 2014 totalling RM5.2 million.

The charges under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act (AMLATFAPUAA) 2001 carry a jail sentence not exceeding 15 years, and a fine of not less than five times the value of unlawful activities at the time the offences were committed, or RM5 million, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

2. Jho Low's close friend was at ease in Saudi palace while MACC officers had to observe strict protocol



MACC Senior Assistant Commissioner Fikri Ab Rahim arriving at the court to testify in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's SRC International Bhd trial

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) officer today revealed how a close associate of fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho @ Jho Low did not have any restriction in communicating with Saudi Royalty while they were told to observe strict protocol.

Senior Assistant Commissioner Fikri Ab Rahim said Eric Tan Kim Loong also seemed to be very familiar with the palace where MACC officers had gone to record the statement of a Saudi prince linked to the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal.

"We were told not to talk directly to any of the royalty who were there at that time and also to observe strict protocol at all times.

"However, I saw Tan and several Malaysian lawyers representing Tan and others connected to the investigation were much more at ease. They was no protocol among them," Fikri said when testifying in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's SRC International Bhd trial.

The 45-year old officer earlier testified that a team of five MACC officers, along with former deputy public prosecutor Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad (who was later appointed as MACC chief commissioner), had gone to Riyadh to record Prince Saud Abdul Aziz Majid Al Saud's statement in relation to the 1MDB investigations at that time.



Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving at the court for his trial.

He said this happened at the end of November 2015.

Fikri said an MACC investigating officer eventually only managed to interview Prince Al Saud's attorney who gave the statement on the latter's behalf.

He said the attorney, who was identified as Mohammad Abdullah Al Koman, also ended up signing the statement because the prince didn't want to do it.

"We were told he has immunity and would not be signing the statement," he said.

Earlier, Fikri said the MACC team, along with Dzulrifli were given VVIP treatment on their arrival in Saudi Arabia.

He said they were considered as official guests of Saudi Arabia and flown to Jeddah in a private jet a day after arriving in Riyadh to interview the prince.

"We were told the prince would only meet us after we perform the umrah.

"After we were flown to Jeddah in a private jet we were escorted all the way to Makkah and placed in a special room close to the Kaa'ba...even our robes were provided to us," he said.

Najib, 67, is facing seven counts of power abuse, criminal breach of trust and money laundering in relation to RM42 million of SRC International funds.

3. Ku Nan had nearly RM800mil in assets in 2016, court told



Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor is seen at the Kuala Lumpur court complex

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor became infuriated at the High Court today when his attempt not to have his assets' worth revealed publicly, was unsuccessful.

The former federal territories minister was testifying on the second day of his defence to a charge of accepting RM2 million from businessman Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong.

"When I said I did not want to declare my assets publicly, you know the reason.

"Now I have a problem. After I mentioned nearly a billion ringgit (worth of assets), they will sensationalise it. That's why I feel deprived," he added.

His counsel Datuk Tan Hock Chuan interjected and asked for a stand-down to avoid the situation from getting worse.

Earlier, the High Court rejected Tengku Adnan's application to have part of the proceedings relating to his Declaration of Assets while he was in the cabinet, to be heard in camera.

Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan, in making his decision, ruled that no evidence must be kept secret from the public.

"For the trial to be conducted fairly, it must be done transparently.

"This way, the public will be able to appreciate any decision reached by the court and not be kept guessing because certain evidence is being kept secret," the judge said.

The trial then continued with Tengku Adnan telling the court that he had declared assets worth over "hundreds of millions" since 2001.

Under examination-in-chief by Tan, the Umno treasurer said he made the declarations to three former prime ministers, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He confirmed he had declared to the prime minister in 2001 total assets valued at RM938,643,566.16, and that he had made similar declarations in 2006 of assets worth RM711,325,822, and in 2013 at RM691,770,649, and finally RM782,748,061 in 2016.

At the start of the trial, Tan had sought additional questions on his client's Declaration of Assets to be tendered in-camera as it was a "sensitive" document, but that would help in the defence case.

He said Tengku Adnan did not want the declaration to be made known to the public as he did not want to expose his family members.

"The declaration is basically a compilation of confidential details of the names of family members and assets, and it will only be disclosed to the prime minister.

"It is clear that it (document) is only for the eyes of the prime minister. Although it is not secret, the nature of the document is confidential," he said.

Meanwhile, deputy public prosecutor Julia Ibrahim argued that the issue of sensitivity was insufficient to exclude the publicity of the documents in this case.

She said the documents were neither categorised as secret nor privileged under the law.

Julia had also submitted that the defence had failed to show how hostility could happen to the accused and his family members, if the declarations were tendered in public since many had already knew about the documents.

Hearing continues.

Tengku Adnan, 69, is facing a charge of accepting RM2 million from Chai via a cheque belonging to Aset Kayamas which was deposited into a bank account belonging to Tadmansori Holdings, a company owned by him.

He faces up to two years' jail or fine or both, if found guilty under Section 165 of the Penal Code.

4. Apandi says no cover up, Sithambaram shows him chart of money trail



Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali today tried to justify his decision not to pursue charges against Datuk Seri Najib Razak

KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali today tried to justify his decision not to pursue charges against Datuk Seri Najib Razak in 2016 over the so-called RM2.6 billion Arab donations and misappropriation of RM42 million of SRC International Bhd funds.

The former Attorney-General (AG), who denied he was involved in a cover up to protect Najib, cited lack of evidence then to show that the former prime minister had committed any wrong doing in both cases.

However, lead prosecutor Datuk V Sithambaram had him stumped when he produced a newspaper clipping of Apandi at a press conference on Jan 26, 2016, holding up a chart of the money trail from SRC International to Najib's accounts via Putra Perdana Construction Sdn Bhd (PPC) and Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd (GMSB).

Ironically, Apandi had called the press on that day to clear Najib's name and announce that there would be no charges brought against the latter.

The 70-year old, who was at one time branded as a Najib loyalist AG, was called to the stand as a defence witness by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah.

Shafee started his questions by first reading out Apandi's impressive Curriculum Vitae (CV), which included the latter's career progression from the time he obtained a law degree in the United Kingdom in 1972.

Apandi, he said, had gone on to serve as a magistrate in Kuala Terengganu the following year before becoming a Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP) in Kelantan and Terengganu, and later as a High Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court judge.

He was eventually appointed as the AG in 2015, a position which he finally let go on June 4, 2018, after Pakatan Harapan gained power in the 14th General Election in May that year.

Apandi, who opted to testify in English, was then questioned about his two press statements over the RM2.6 billion donation and SRC International cases on Jan 18, 2016, and Jan 26 the same year.

He testified that the first statement was issued to notify the public that the investigation paper had been sent back to the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) as he needed certain things to be clarified.

He said it was at the second press conference he announced the decision not to pursue charges against Najib as he was satisfied no offence had been committed.

"Based on the facts and evidence provided by investigators then, I was satisfied that no offences had been committed by him," he said, adding even the MACC had submitted that there was no evidence to suggest Najib had done any wrong.

Later, when cross-examined by Sithambaram, Apandi agreed that his decision not to pursue charges against Najib was based on evidence made available to him then.

Sithambaram: Are you aware that after that 76 additional statements were recorded from new witnesses?

Apandi: No, I am not aware.

Sithambaram: You are also not aware that further statements were taken from the previous witnesses.

Apandi: I am not aware.

Sithambaram: Are you aware that Najib himself admitted that RM42 million of SRC money entered into his account? He admitted this in an affidavit of a civil suit.

Apandi: I have no knowledge of it.

Sithambaram then pushed Apandi on the involvement of former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifly Ahmad, who was then a DPP in the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), in the decision not to pursue charges against Najib in 2016.

(It was previously reported that Dzulkifli was one of the central figures who was caught in an audio recording released by the MACC earlier this year discussing Najib's case and how it would be buried.)

Asked if he had ever discussed with Dzulkifli on his intention to close the file on Najib even before MACC got back to him with the clarification he had sought, Apandi said he did not.

Sithambaram: So if anyone were to suggest before Jan 5, 2016, that the file will be closed, it can be deemed as a cover up?

Apandi: I have no knowledge whether he (Dzulkifli) said it or not.

Sithambaram: During your press statement on Jan 26, you were shown holding a chart of the money trail from SRC to PPC and GMSB. The Straits Times carried your picture with the charts.

At this point Shafee said technically the newspaper clipping was not admissible but he would not object to it.

Sithambaram then asked Apandi if he knew that by the time the RM42 million from SRC International was paid into Najib's accounts, all of the RM2.6 billion so-called donation had been used up.

To this, Apandi said he had no knowledge of it and could not recall the details.

During re-examination, Shafee asked Apandi to clarify on the cover up insinuation and the latter said he was never involved in doing such a thing.

"I never gave any instruction to cover up...the answer is no," he said.

Apandi was later released after Shafee finished his re-examination.

Najib, 67 is facing seven counts of power abuse, criminal breach of trust and money laundering in relation to RM42 million of SRC International funds.

5. Witness: Rizal told me he wanted to pass 'items' to ma'am at Seri Perdana



A businessman told the High Court today that he had accompanied Datuk Rizal Mansor (right), then an aide to Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, to deliver two bags from the Pavilion Tower.

KUALA LUMPUR: A businessman told the High Court today that he had accompanied Datuk Rizal Mansor, then an aide to Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, to deliver two bags from the Pavilion Tower to Seri Perdana, Putrajaya, the Prime Minister's official residence.

Datuk Ahmed Farriq Zainul Abidin said Rizal told him there was money inside the bags, but did not mention how much.

"I did not know whether the bags were in fact filled with cash," he said.

The ninth prosecution witness said he did not ask Rizal further about it as he knew that the latter was full of secrecy.

"I knew that Rizal is very secretive and will not tell anyone about his work.

"I understood that this was because he was holding an important position, and secrecy is essential for him to carry out his duties," he said.

Farriq said Rizal also told him that he (Rizal) wanted to pass the 'items' to 'ma'am'.

He said he knew the person referred to was Rosmah.

"Rizal and I were close since 2014 and he usually says 'ma'am' when referring to Rosmah," he said.

Farriq said he first met Rizal in 2014 at a programme in Putrajaya.

He said at that time he already knew Rizal was a special officer to the Prime Minister and special aide to Rosmah, the wife of then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said they then established Yayasan Perdana Ummah together that year in which Rizal was the president.

The witness also testified that he knew a little bit about the solar hybrid project because he had accompanied Rizal in meetings with Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd's managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin and Saidi's business partner Rayyan Radzwill Abdullah.

"I however feel uncomfortable around them (Saidi and Rayyan) and decided to not bother knowing about the project, although Rizal had several times wanted to discuss it," he said.

Hearing before judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan continues tomorrow.

Rosmah, 69, is facing three charges of soliciting RM187.5 million and receiving a bribe of RM6.5 million from Saidi through Rizal for projects to provide solar energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

Rizal was originally a co-accused in the case but charges against him have since been dropped and he is now another key prosecution witness in the trial.

6. Witness: Minister wrote letter to Najib for release of RM92 million



Former secretary at the ministry's asset procurement and management department Kamarudin Abdullah, 62, said Mahdzir had on July 19, 2017, written the letter in his capacity as finance minister, for an exemption to release about RM92 million to Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd.

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid had personally written to Datuk Seri Najib Razak requesting for exemption of certain documents to allow an interim payment to be made to a contractor tasked to manage the solar hybrid project for rural schools in Sarawak, the High Court was told today.

Former secretary at the ministry's asset procurement and management department Kamarudin Abdullah, 62, said Mahdzir had on July 19, 2017, written the letter in his capacity as finance minister, for an exemption to release about RM92 million to Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd.

According to him, this was done without the knowledge of officers at the department.

Testifying in the graft trial of Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor over the solar hybrid project, Kamarudin said the money was for Jepak Holdings to supply diesel to affected rural schools pending completion of the project.

"The interim payment was for the diesel supply, not for the project.

"The payment needed to be released or else the schools would be 'in darkness'.

"However, I was involved when the first interim payment was made which was between RM60 million and RM70 million," he said.



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Under cross-examination by Rosmah's counsel Azrul Zulkifli Stork, the 10th prosecution witness said it was Mahdzir who instructed him to remove a clause from the Letter of Acceptance (LoA) to Jepak Holdings to make deductions from any unfinished works.

He added that whatever was not stated in the LoA could be added in the contract later.

Previously, Mahdzir testified that he instructed his officer to write the letter upon instructions of Rosmah's former aide Datuk Rizal Mansor.

Re-examined by deputy public prosecutor Poh Yih Tinn, Kamarudin said Mahdzir might have obtained the necessary information to prepare the letter from his special officer.

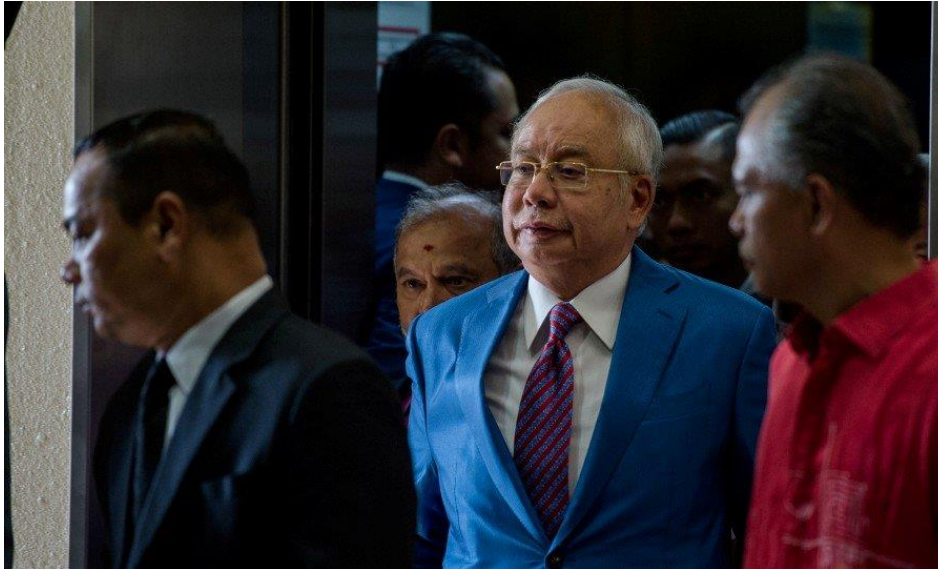
"The minister never called me to discuss the letter. I only received a copy of it.

"His (minister's) special officer might have obtained the information from my officers. But not from me," he said.

Trial before judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan continues.

Rosmah, 69, is charged with soliciting RM187.5 million and with two counts of receiving bribe of RM6.5 million from Jepak Holdings' managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin, through Rizal, in exchange for helping the company obtain a RM1.25 billion project to provide solar energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

7. 2016 probe dropped as 'Najib had no knowledge of wrongdoings', court hears



A former deputy public prosecutor (DPP) today said no further action (NFA) was taken in the RM2.6 billion donation to Datuk Seri Najib Razak and SRC International Bhd cases.

KUALA LUMPUR: A former deputy public prosecutor (DPP) today said no further action (NFA) was taken in the RM2.6 billion donation to Datuk Seri Najib Razak and SRC International Bhd cases as investigations up to 2016 showed the former prime minister had no knowledge of any wrongdoings.

Tan Sri Dzulkefli Ahmad, who ended his career in the civil service as the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner in 2018, said he was part of a team of DPPs ordered to go through MACC investigation papers on the two cases at that time.

He said former Attorney General (AG) Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali had assigned him to do so and one of the key issues that was looked into was whether Najib had any knowledge of funds from SRC going into his accounts and if he had directed anyone to do so.

He said prior to that MACC had suggested that Najib should be charged under Section 403 of the Penal Code for criminal misappropriation.

However, he said to secure a conviction for the offence, prosecutors needed to prove knowledge of the offence.

Asked by Najib's lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah if MACC addressed the issue of knowledge in their investigations, Dzulkefli said the graft busters merely gave a summary of reasons in the investigation papers submitted to the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).

Earlier, Dzulkifli said he was also shocked when told of what had been discussed at a top level meeting involving members of the task force which had been set up to investigate the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal.

He said Assistant Commissioner (ACP) R Rajagopal who attended the meeting as a representative of former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar told him that then MACC commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed had suggested that charges should be preferred against Najib.

He said Rajagopal told him that Abu Kassim had suggested to then AG Tan Sri Gani Patail that he (Gani) was about to retire and would be remembered if Najib was charged.

Rajagopal yesterday testified that the meeting took place on July 4, 2015.

Asked by Shafee why he was shocked, Dzulkifli said this was because investigations in the 1MDB scandal had yet to be completed at that time, with statements from key witnesses including Najib himself yet to be recorded.

Earlier, Dzulkifli testified that he was part of a team which had gone to Jakarta and Riyadh to record statements from key witnesses involved in the 1MDB scandal and RM2.6 billion donation.

Lead prosecutor Datuk V Sithambaram will be cross examining Dzulkifli tomorrow.

Najib, 67, is facing seven counts of power abuse, criminal breach of trust and money laundering in relation to RM42 million of SRC International funds.

8. Rosmah asked ex-education ministry sec-gen to expedite payment to Jepak Holdings



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, 69, is facing a charge of soliciting RM187.5 million and two counts of receiving a total RM6.5 million bribe from Saidi

KUALA LUMPUR: "I took what she (Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor) said seriously because she was the wife of the (former) Prime Minister," former education ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Alias Ahmad told the High Court.

Alias, 62, said Rosmah was asking him to speed up an advanced payment to Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd, the company awarded with the solar hybrid project for 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

Testifying in Rosmah's graft trial in relation to the project, Alias said Rosmah had after a Permata foundation meeting, approached him directly to enquire about the advance payment.

"After the meeting, Rosmah asked me about the status of the advance payment to Jepak and when will it be done as the company was unable to implement the project without the payment," he said.

Alias said he took Rosmah's queries seriously as it came from the wife of then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"She also asked me when the contract could be signed and to speed up the matter because if the contract was not signed, the progress payment could not be made," he said.

The 12th prosecution witness said after Rosmah's queries, he had instructed his officers to figure out a solution to the issues surrounding Jepak Holdings' advance payment, progress payment and preparation of the contract.

Alias said he did not remember the exact date of his conversation with Rosmah, but it took place before the official contract for the project was signed.

He testified that he had signed the contract together with Jepak Holdings managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin.

"As far as I remember, the contract for the project was signed on June 20, 2017," he said.

Trial before judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan continues.

Rosmah, 69, is facing a charge of soliciting RM187.5 million and two counts of receiving a total RM6.5 million bribe from Saidi, through her former aide Datuk Rizal Mansor, in exchange for helping Jepak Holdings obtain a RM1.25 billion project to provide solar energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

On Feb 5, in his opening statement, lead prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram said Rosmah wielded considerable influence by reason of her 'overbearing nature'.

He said despite occupying no official position in the government, Rosmah had solicited bribes and received gratification as alleged in the charges against her.

9. SRC trial: Was it all just 'sandiwara', lead prosecutor asks



Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad, who was implicated in the audio recordings where he could be heard discussing details.

KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad, who was implicated in the audio recordings where he could be heard discussing details of what the prosecution back then intended to do with Datuk Seri Najib Razak's SRC International Bhd case, today refused to answer questions on the matter.

The former deputy public prosecutor (DPP) in the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) also did not want to answer when asked if he had indeed pledged to handle the legal file concerning the investigations.

Dzulkifli said he could not answer as police had already started investigations into the audio recordings.

When lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram continued to press him to explain whether or not he had ever said it in a teleconversation on Jan 5, 2016, Dzulkifli again clamped up.

However, this time Dzulkifli asked the DPP whether he could be given immunity if the prosecution really wanted his answer.

Sithambaram, who at one point described Dzulkifli as appearing to act like he was Najib's defence counsel due to the way he was answering questions, immediately shot him down and said the prosecution would offer no such thing.

Sensing the DPP's anger, Dzulkifli jokingly told Sithambaram to relax.

It was reported that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had in early January released a set of audio recordings which its chief commissioner at the time, Latheefa Koya, described as leakage of information from the AGC.

The conversations in the recordings were alleged to have taken place between Jan 5, 2016 and July 29, 2016.

One of the audio clips featured a conversation between Dzulkifli and Najib revolving around an investigation paper.

Police have since started investigating the matter and called Dzulkifli to facilitate their probe.

Meanwhile, in his cross examination of the defence witness, Sithambaram also questioned Dzulkifli at length on the AGC's decision to order the MACC to investigate further the issue of RM2.6 billion donation and RM42 million of SRC International money which ended in Najib's accounts after the graft busters had submitted their first investigation paper (IP) in 2015.

Sithambaram questioned Dzulkifli whether this was just a sandiwara (show) as the AGC had by then decided not to charge Najib.

Dzulkifli: That is not true at all. It is a blatant accusation.

Sithambaram: The AGC had asked the MACC to do further investigations just for the sake of it. It was not because it wanted to pursue the case against Najib but to close it. It was to cover up the case.

Dzulkifli: That is also not true at all and it is a blatant accusation against the AGC.

Sithambaram: Do you know MACC were given just four days to come back with the second IP after the first IP was returned to them?

Dzulkifli: I am not sure of that.

Dzulkifli however agreed that at the end of 2015, the MACC had recommended that Najib be charged under Section 403 of the Penal Code for dishonest misappropriation of property and Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009 for abuse of power.

Touching on his trip to Riyadh where he accompanied MACC investigators to record the statement of Saudi Prince Saud Abdul Aziz Al Saud to verify the RM2.6 billion donation, Sithambaram asked Dzulkifli why three lawyers representing Najib, fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho @ Jho Low and his (Jho Low) close aide Eric Tan Kim Loon were also there.

To this, Dzulkifli said he had no knowledge why there were there.

Meanwhile, when re-examined by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah on whether the AGC had pressured the MACC to return the second IP in an "unholy haste", Dzulkifli said that was not the case at all.

He said the MACC could always ask for more time if they needed it.

Shafee later wrapped up the defence case and High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali fixed April 21 for submissions.

Najib, 67, is facing seven counts of power abuse, criminal breach of trust and money laundering in relation to RM42 million of SRC International funds.

10. Malaysia recovers RM1.4 billion of 1MDB fraud money – PMO



Malaysia has recovered RM1.4 billion (US\$323 million) of funds allegedly stolen from state fund 1MDB.

PUTRAJAYA: A total of RM1.4 billion have been recovered through efforts by a special task force responsible for tracking 1Malaysia Development Bhd's (1MDB) funds abroad, while another RM6.9 billion has been identified.

The matter was communicated to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin during a special briefing by the special task force this morning, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement today.

The special task forces comprise representatives from the Attorney General Chamber, National Financial Crime Centre, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Royal Malaysian Police, Bank Negara Malaysia and the Ministry of Finance.

The task force, according to the PMO, has also provided details of the actions taken to return the suspected 1MDB misappropriated funds from 17 countries.

"The Prime Minister has directed efforts to track and recover 1MDB funds from various countries be continued," it said.

11. Govt mission to trace and recover 1MDB funds still on

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue efforts to trace and recover 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had ordered the special task force to retrieve monies from various countries following their briefing on the status of the shouldered task.

"So far more than RM1.4 billion has been recovered while another RM6.9 billion was traced by the task force that was put in charge," said the Prime Minister's Office in a statement today.

The special task force also briefed the prime minister on the details of action taken to recover the funds reportedly misused in 17 countries.

The task force is made up of the Attorney-General Chambers, the National Financial Crime Centre, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the police, Bank Negara Malaysia and the Finance Ministry.

The new Attorney-General Tan Sri Idrus Harun earlier gave the prosecution team, including Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram, the go ahead to continue its case against former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is facing criminal charges relating to the 1MDB scandal.

This includes prosecutions against other high-profile figures.

His wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor faces several corruption charges.

She is facing two counts of soliciting RM187.5 million and receiving RM1.8 million for projects to provide solar energy to rural schools in Sarawak.

On the first count, she was charged with dishonestly soliciting for herself a gratification of RM187.5 million - which is 15 per cent of the value of the contract from Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudain.

It was an inducement to help the company secure the Hybrid Photovoltaic Solar System Integrated Project and Maintenance and Operation of Genset/Diesel for 369 rural schools in Sarawak, worth RM1.25 billion through direct negotiation from the Education Ministry.

On the second count, she was charged with dishonestly receiving for herself RM1.5 million from Saidi for the same purpose at No 11, Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta on Sept 7, 2017. Rosmah also faces a third count of accepting gratification of RM5 million from Saidi to secure the same project.

12. May 14 hearing of applications by Najib, 3 others to strike out Deepak's suit



The applications by former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and three others to strike out the suit filed by carpet businessman will be heard on May 14

KUALA LUMPUR: The applications by former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and three others to strike out the RM676 million suit filed by carpet businessman J.R. Deepak Jaikishan will be heard on May 14.

Based on information posted on the court website, the hearing is set for today, but it has been vacated to May 14 due to the closure of courts nationwide in line with the Movement Control Order imposed by the government since March 18 to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The hearing will be before High Court Judicial Commissioner Quay Chew Soon.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, filed the application to strike out the suit on Jan 7, 2019 while the other two defendants - Boustead Holdings Berhad and its subsidiary, Bakti Wira Development Sdn Bhd - filed their application on Dec 17, 2018.

All the defendants filed the applications on the ground that they were not involved in the alleged conspiracy.

Deepak filed the suit on Oct 12, 2018, claiming that he had suffered losses due to the conspiracy, fraud and undue influence by the defendants in a property deal that allegedly caused his company to suffer huge losses.

He claimed that as a director and majority shareholder of Astacanggih Sdn. Bhd, he had signed a land deal with the director and majority shareholder of Awan Megah (M) Sdn Bhd, Raja Ropiaah

Raja Abdullah, over three pieces of land, involving 181.9 hectare in Mukim Kapar, Klang and Mukim Bukit Raja, in the Petaling district.

He claimed that a deposit payment of RM13 million had been made by Astacanggih to Awan Megah and a land bond for RM72.5 million from Kuwait Finance House (M) Bhd was submitted to the Malaysian government.

However, he claimed Awan Megah refused to produce the original land titles for transfer to Astacanggih.

Deepak contended that as a result of the conspiracy and interference from Najib and Rosmah, who were named the first and second defendant, respectively, he was forced to sell 80 per cent (16 million units) of his shares in Astacanggih to Boustead Holdings through Wira development.

He is seeking RM600 million in general damages, RM50 million in exemplary damages and RM26 million in aggravated damages.

13. Decision on MACC's forfeiture suit against Jakel Trading on April 26

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here will deliver its verdict on the government's application to forfeit RM628,314 allegedly linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal that was seized from Jakel Trading on April 28.

The decision was supposed to be delivered by Judicial Commissioner Datuk Ahmad Shahrir Mohd Salleh today, but has been rescheduled to April 28 due to the enforcement of the Movement Control Order.

The matter was informed by Jakel Trading's lawyer Thevini Nayagam when contacted by Bernama today.

In June last year, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) filed a civil forfeiture suit against 41 entities, comprising individuals, companies and political parties, under the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act to recover about RM270million believed to be linked to 1MDB.

MACC believed the money was illegally transferred from an account of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.