

NEWS PAPER CUTTING ON JUNE 2021
NEWS STRAIT TIMES

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BETWEEN 2011 & 2012

Riza Aziz sued over alleged misappropriation of US\$250m 1MDB funds

KUALA LUMPUR: The stepson of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Riza Shahriz Abdul Aziz, has been sued by 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and three of its subsidiaries over the misappropriation of US\$250 million funds from the companies.

The other three companies that filed the suit were 1MDB Energy Holdings Ltd, 1MDB Energy Ltd and 1MDB Energy (Langkat) Ltd.

Hollywood producers Red Granite Pictures Inc and Red Granite Capital Ltd, as well as New York-based law firm Shearman & Sterling were also named in the suit as the first to fourth defendants respectively.

This is one of six civil suits filed by 1MDB against nine entities, including two foreign financial institutions and 25 individuals, for various wrongdoings as an effort to recover its assets.

According to the writ of summons filed at the High Court on May 7 via Messrs Shearn Delamore, the first to third defendants had received approximately US\$250 million funds which were misappropriated from the plaintiffs (1MDB and its subsidiaries) between 2011 and 2012.

1MDB claimed that Riza, who controlled the two Red Granite companies, which were the producers of Hollywood hit *The Wolf of Wall Street*, knew or ought to have known that the funds had been misappropriated and used for their personal benefit and for the benefit of their associates.

The misappropriated funds, 1MDB claimed, were also used by the three defendants for the purposes of financing movie productions and purchasing real estates.

Meanwhile, it claimed that the

fourth defendant (Shearman & Sterling) had permitted Riza and fugitive businessman Low Tack Jho or Jho Low (whom 1MDB claimed was directly involved in the misappropriations) to use the law firm's interest on lawyer accounts to launder a substantial portion of the misappropriated funds.

It claimed that the law firm had knowledge that the funds in question were the proceeds of crime. The plaintiffs are therefore seeking a declaration that Riza, as well as the Red Granite companies, are liable to account for the funds misappropriated from 1MDB.

Alternatively, the plaintiffs are seeking a repayment of the funds misappropriated from it on the basis of unjust enrichment as a consequence of misappropriation from the plaintiffs. It is also claiming against Shearman & Sterling damages and equitable compensation for breaches of statutory and/or regulatory duty including dishonest assistance, aiding and abetting.

The plaintiffs are also seeking interests, other relief deemed fit by the court, as well as costs.

The matter has been fixed for further case management on Aug 17 by senior assistant registrar Noordura Mohamed Din when the case came up for case management via e-Review yesterday.

The Finance Ministry, in a statement last month, said 22 civil suits had been filed by 1MDB and its subsidiary, SRC International Sdn Bhd, against various parties, including Najib, to recover assets worth RM96.6 billion, including RM300 million against various local parties.



Riza Shahriz Abdul Aziz controls Red Granite Pictures Inc and Red Granite Capital Ltd, which are also named in 1Malaysia Development Bhd's suit.

FILE PIC

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NOT GUILTY PLEA

EX-SELAYANG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OFFICER CHARGED WITH GRAFT

Former surveyor allegedly received bribes up to RM5,600 four years ago

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A FORMER Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) assistant quantity surveyor was yesterday slapped with two counts of accepting RM5,600 graft four years ago.

Tengku Kamarul Ariffin Raja Jalil, 42, pleaded not guilty to the charges before Sessions Court judge Rozina Ayob.

He was accused of receiving up to RM5,600 from one Mohd Firdaus Saif between April 22 and Aug 16, 2017.

The money was an inducement for the accused to leak the department's budget quotation for an unspecified tender to Firdaus.

Tengku Kamarul was charged under Section 17(a) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, which carries a maximum of 20 years jail and fine.

He also claimed trial to two other charges of receiving the same



Former Selayang Municipal Council assistant quantity surveyor Tengku Kamarul Ariffin Raja Jalil (right) entering the Sessions Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

amount without anything in return from the same person at the same place and time.

The charge was framed under Section 165 of the Penal Code, which carries two years' jail or fine or both upon conviction.

Earlier, MACC prosecuting officer Mohd Aliff Shahruzaman

asked the court to impose a RM10,000 bail with one surety for all charges against Tengku Kamarul.

He suggested that Tengku Kamarul report to the nearest MACC office once every month and surrender his passport to the court as additional conditions.

Counsel Kooi Wei Kit, who represented Tengku Kamarul, did not object to the prosecution's application.

The court set RM10,000 bail and agreed to the prosecution's additional conditions.

The court fixed July 16 for mention.

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Two Kuching North City Hall officers remanded

KUCHING: Two officers from the Kuching North City Hall have been remanded to assist investigations into alleged graft and abuse of power related to a housing project in Jalan Sultan Tengah. Magistrate Zaiton Anuar yesterday allowed the application from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to remand the duo for two and four days, respectively. The 34-year-old division head of the local council will be remanded until tomorrow, while the 32-year-old unit head will be detained until June 22. They were nabbed at 6.15pm on Thursday for allegedly misusing their positions and office to receive bribes and issue occupational permits to a property developer in 2019. However, the amount of money involved has yet to be confirmed.