

**The Star Disember 2019**

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**1. Najib tells court at SRC trial: Jho Low 'close acquaintance' of Tuanku Mizan**



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Najib Razak believes that fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low, can assist in 1Malaysia Development Berhad's (1MDB) investments in the Middle East.

The former prime minister said that Low has always portrayed himself as someone who was influential in the Middle East.

"These countries have an access of cash money due to the increase in oil prices.

"I thought (berfikiran) that the clout (pengaruh) and relationships that Low had (in the Middle East) will help ease 1MDB's investments and missions (in the area)," said Najib.

He was reading from his 243-page statement, on his first day of taking the stand at his SRC International Sdn Bhd trial at the High Court on Tuesday (Dec 3).

Najib also told the court that Low was a "close acquaintance" (kenalan rapat) of the Sultan of Terengganu Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin and his sister Tengku Datuk Rahimah Sultan Mahmud at the time that Terengganu Investment Agency Bhd (TIA) was formed.

(TIA was later taken over by the Federal Government to be turned into 1MDB)

"I was made to understand that Low was chosen as an advisor to the chairman of the board of advisers to TIA, who was Tuanku Mizan himself (at that time)," he added.

The court also heard that the Federal Government decided to take over TIA to avoid "embarrassment" to the Terengganu state government and to Tuanku Mizan, who was also the then-Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Najib said that the Terengganu state government, Menteri Besar Terengganu Incorporated (MBTI), and Tuanku Mizan had formed TIA as a sovereign wealth fund with a capital of RM11bil.

He said that RM6bil was to come from the state's oil royalty, while RM5bil was to come from the issuing of Islamic Medium Term Notes (IMTN), which will be guaranteed by the Federal Government.

"But at the end, the state government and MBTI did not agree to the terms of the IMTN, even though it has been issued.

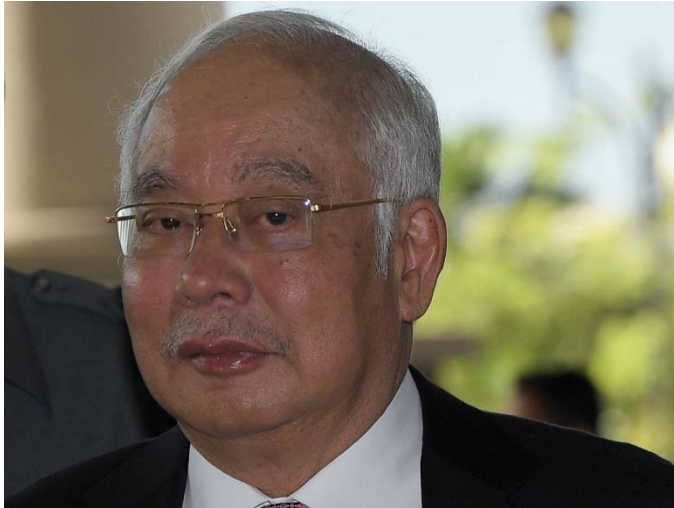
"Consequently, on Aug 8, 2009, the Cabinet had allowed the Federal Government to take over TIA.

"It was a decision that was reluctantly made to protect the state government and the then-Yang di-Pertuan Agong from embarrassment and also to avoid a negative impact to Malaysian-issued bonds globally (impak buruk kepada pasaran bonds Malaysia secara global)," he added.

Proceedings are held before High Court judge Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

The 66-year-old is currently facing seven charges - three for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC International funds totalling RM42mil.

**2. Najib: Jho Low arranged my meetings with Saudi King**



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Fugitive financier Low Taek Jho was the one who arranged meetings between Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Saudi Arabia ruler King Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the High Court here heard on Wednesday (Dec 4).

In his testimony, Najib said that Low - better known as Jho Low - had told him that King Abdullah admired Malaysia's ability to practice moderation in Islam and equality between Muslims and non-Muslims.

The meetings between the former prime minister and King Abdullah took place during a series of visits to Riyadh and Jeddah.

"According to Jho Low, King Abdullah wanted to confer me with the highest civilian honour in Saudi Arabia, which was the King Abdulaziz Order of Merit (1st Class)," he said.

The award had been previously conferred on former US president Barack Obama and Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Reading from his 243-page witness statement during examination-in-chief by lawyer Wan Aizuddin Wan Mohamad, Najib said he received the award in January 2010.

Najib added that Low then told him in mid-2010 that King Abdullah wanted to support to Najib's leadership in the form of personal donations.

"From 2011 until 2014, I received a huge amount of money that I believed was a donation from King Abdullah as a sign of his support. Jho Low was the connection in the matter and I believed he arranged the donations for the Saudi royal family," he said.

Najib said that he and recipient bank AmBank received several letters about the donations, and these were in line with the donations.

Wan Aizuddin: When Jho Low first raised the issue about donations, were you told how much it would be?

Najib: There was no specific amount but Jho Low said it could be between US\$100mil and US\$200mil.

Wan Aizuddin: Were you not surprised with such a huge amount?

Najib: It may seem a lot, but I know that the Saudi royal family is known for their generosity where they had donated a huge sum of money to various foundations in the US, including the Clinton Foundation and other countries such as Egypt, Pakistan, Palestine as part of their foreign relations and diplomatic policy.

Najib is facing seven charges - three for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC International Sdn Bhd funds totalling RM42mil.

### 3. Prosecution zooms in on SRC International's loan application documentation



**KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama):** The prosecution in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's SRC International Sdn Bhd case at the High Court on Tuesday (Dec 10) contended that the company was not forthcoming in providing the documentation pertaining to a loan application to Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP).

Attorney General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas (*pic*) said KWAP, as the lender, had repeatedly requested for documents from SRC International.

Thomas said that normally in a loan application, the borrower would submit all the documents required, but this was not the case for SRC International.

He then read out the testimony from a witness that KWAP had requested then SRC International chief executive officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil to arrange for such documents, to which Nik Faisal replied on July 1, 2011, that "we are unable to disclose the further information requested as it was subject to the approval of the adviser of emeritus of SRC (Najib)".

Questioned by Thomas whether he had prevented Nik Faisal from sharing information with KWAP, Najib replied: "If he refers to me, I will ask to him to furnish all information to KWAP. We as the borrower has to give whatever the lender wants".

On Nov 11, Najib was ordered to enter his defence on seven charges of misappropriating RM42 million in SRC International Sdn Bhd funds, comprising three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), three counts of money laundering and one count of abuse of power in relation to the SRC funds.

#### 4. SRC International trial: Najib unsure whether signatures on documents were his

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak said that he could not confirm the authenticity of the documents shown to him by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) during their investigations of him, the High Court heard on Tuesday (Dec 10).

The former prime minister said this during examination-in-chief by his counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah at his SRC International Sdn Bhd trial.

Najib said that he told the MACC officers that the signature on the documents looked like his own.

"I told the MACC officers that the signature on these documents were mine because they looked like my signatures," he said, adding that all the documents shown to him were copies and not the original documents.

He told the court that MACC officers also failed to inform him that there were no original copies of the documents that were to be found in SRC International's records.

This, he said, was only made known to him during the trial itself.

He said that it was also during the trial that he came to know that former SRC International director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin also said that his own (Suboh's) signature on several documents could have been "cut and pasted" by other parties.

"I did not have the chance to know of these matters at the time and only confirmed my signature based on a cursory glance at the documents.

"Now I have reasons to doubt the authenticity of my signature (on the documents)," he added.

Najib also stressed the importance for an expert from Australia to be brought in to verify the authenticity of the documents and of his signature on them.

Najib is facing seven charges; three for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC International Sdn Bhd funds totalling RM42mil.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali this afternoon.



**5. Guan Eng: Malaysia to proceed with criminal charges against Goldman Sachs**



PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia will proceed to file criminal charges against the Goldman Sachs Group over the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) issue sometime next year, says Lim Guan Eng (*pic*).

The Finance Minister said this was despite news reports that Goldman Sachs intended to reach an out-of-court settlement with the United States' Department of Justice (DOJ).

"Our Government does not have information about this matter (Goldman Sachs' settlement with DOJ) but we will still pursue criminal charges against Goldman Sachs.

"I was informed by the Attorney General that the case will be heard in court in the middle of next year.

"We still want to claim payment of US\$7.5bil (RM31.19bil), for the losses caused by Goldman Sachs alone in the 1MDB scandal," said Lim at a press conference here after announcing the Finance Ministry's inaugural Putrajaya LIFT (Literacy in Financial Technology) Festival 2019 on Thursday (Dec 12).

Bloomberg reported that Goldman Sachs could end up paying less than US\$2bil (RM8.3bil) to resolve an investigation over its role in raising money for 1MDB.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently told Reuters in an interview that Malaysia would prefer to avoid going to court, but only if a reasonable offer could be agreed upon.

He said the investment bank's offer of "one point something billion dollars" as compensation was too small.

#### **6. Magistrate charged with eight counts of bribery**

KUANTAN: A magistrate was charged in a Sessions Court here with eight counts of soliciting and accepting bribes totalling RM295,000.

Mohamad Amin Shahul Hamid, 38, pleaded not guilty after the charges were read to him before Judge Mohd Ghazali Mohamad Taib.

He was charged with three counts of requesting a total of RM185,000 in bribes from one Hassan Basri Ahmad Sutan Modo as an inducement for him to not impose a jail sentence after the man was charged in the Kuala Lipis Magistrate's Court with possessing smuggled cigarettes.

The charges are framed under Section 16(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, and punishable under Section 24 of the same act.

Mohamad Amin now faces up to a jail term of 20 years and a fine of not less than five times the amount of bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher.

He was also charged with five counts of receiving bribes amounting to RM110,000 from the same person and for a similar purpose.

For these offences, he was charged under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009, which is punishable under Section 24 and provides for a similar penalty if found guilty.

He was alleged to have committed the offences at several locations in Lipis and Raub near here between July 5 and Oct 22.

Mohamad Amin was represented by lawyer Mohd Azharul Ab Talib.

MACC Legal and Prosecution Division director Roslan Mat Nor requested for bail to be set at RM50,000 for all three charges.

Mohd Ghazali fixed bail at RM25,000 in one surety for the charges and ordered the accused to surrender his passport to the court.

**7. Najib denies having knowledge of RM32mil being transferred into his personal bank account**



KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told the High Court that he had no idea that RM32mil was transferred into his personal bank account.

The 66-year-old Pekan MP said this was because his account was managed by a third party who would have informed him if there were any suspicious transactions.

"I did not manage my own account. They who managed my account should know better," he said here on Wednesday (Dec 18).

He also said the bank should have informed him as the account holder if such suspicion arises.

Najib was under cross-examination by ad hoc prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram who questioned him on the transaction.

Sithambaram also questioned Najib's failure to lodge a police report regarding his allegation that his signature was forged in several documents relating to the trial.

The prosecutor described Najib's forgery allegation as an afterthought that was raised only during defence stage.

This was denied by Najib.

Sithambaram: You agree with me when your signature is forged in any documents, you should lodge a police report.

Najib: I only found out that there was a probability my signature was forged during the case.

Sithambaram: That's not my question. Would you make a police report?

Najib: That is why we want to call an expert first to examine the signature, after which we would make a police report.

The prosecutor suggested Najib's application to call a document expert as to 'bolster untruthful event' of forgery, and Najib disagreed.

Sithambaram: So after sitting in court and hearing the cross-examinations, you decided to say your signature was forged.

Najib: I disagree.

Sithambaram: You never said you had doubts (when you confirmed your signature with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission) because the forgery issue only came during the defence stage.

Najib: I disagree. At that time, I thought it was my signature.

Sithambaram: So it could be your signature, or it could not be your signature.

Najib: Yes.

Sithambaram: You're not sure if it's forgery so you need an expert to confirm.

Najib: Yes.

Sithambaram: I put it to you, that the only person that can verify your signature is you.

Najib: I disagree.

Najib is facing seven charges - three for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC funds totalling RM42mil.

#### 8. MCMC deputy director claims trial to bribery charges

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): A Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) deputy director pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to three counts of bribery amounting to RM87,000, involving Universal Service Provision (USP) project approvals in 2015 and January this year.

Mohd Iskandar King, 42, from the Postal Affairs and E-Commerce Division, entered the plea after the charges were read out to him before Judge Azura Alwi on Thursday (Dec 19).

On the first count, Mohd Iskandar is accused of receiving a bribe of RM50,000 from Golden Sunrise Ventures company director, who is also OCK Setia Engineering consultant Mohd Azuzi Mohamed Kamil, in return for a favour in securing a USP Time 3 Extension Phase 1 contract, from the agency.

The accused allegedly committed the offence at the IOI City Mall in Putrajaya at 8pm on Jan 9 this year.

The charge framed under Section 16(a)(B) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 - punishable under Section 24 - provides for a maximum jail term of 20 years and a fine not less than five times the amount of bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if convicted.

He also faces an alternative charge for the same offence under Section 165 of the Penal Code which provides for a jail term of up to two years, or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

On the second and third counts, Mohd Iskandar allegedly received two cheques amounting to RM18,500 each from Mohd Azuzi, which were made payable to him and his wife Nur Ellina Abdul Sukor.

The offences allegedly committed at the Bukit Jalil Golf and Country Resort at 5pm on June 23, 2015 are charged under Section 165 of the Penal Code.

The court allowed Mohd Iskandar bail of RM20,000 with one surety for all the charges and ordered him to surrender his passport to the court until the case is settled.

**9. Najib: I didn't know about RM32mil transfer**



KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told the High Court he had no knowledge of RM32mil being transferred into his personal bank account. The 66-year-old Pekan MP said this was because his account was managed by a third party, who would have informed him if there was any suspicious transaction.

"I did not manage my own account. They who managed my account should know better," he said during cross-examination by ad hoc prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram on the transaction.

The bank, he added, should have informed him as the account holder if such a suspicion arose.

Sithambaram also questioned Najib's failure to lodge a police report over his allegation that his signature had been forged in several documents relating to the trial.

The prosecutor described the forgery allegation as an afterthought that was raised only during the defence stage, which Najib denied.

Sithambaram: You agree with me that when your signature is forged in any document, you should lodge a police report.

Najib: I only found out that there was a probability my signature was forged during the case.

Sithambaram: That's not my question. Would you make a police report? Najib: That is why we want to call an expert first to examine the signature, after which we would make a police report.

The prosecutor suggested that Najib's application to call a document expert was an attempt to "bolster untruthful event" of forgery, to which Najib disagreed.

Sithambaram: So after sitting in court and hearing the cross-examination, you decided to say your signature was forged.

Najib: I disagree.

Sithambaram: You never said you had doubts (when you confirmed your signature with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission) because the forgery issue only came during the defence stage.

Najib: I disagree. At that time, I thought it was my signature.

Sithambaram: So it could be your signature or it could not be your signature.

Najib: Yes.

Sithambaram: You're not sure if it's forgery so you need an expert to confirm.

Najib: Yes.

Sithambaram: I put it to you - that the only person that can verify your signature is you.

Najib: I disagree.

Najib is facing seven charges - three for criminal breach of trust, one for abuse of power and three for money laundering involving SRC International Sdn Bhd funds totalling RM42mil.



**10. SRC trial: Court to hear Najib's application on Jan 7 to call Aussie expert**



**KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama):** The High Court here has fixed Jan 7 next year to hear Datuk Seri Najib Razak's application to call an Australian expert to examine documents tendered as exhibits in his trial involving SRC International Sdn Bhd's funds.

The matter was informed by Najib's counsel Nur Syahirah Hanapiah to the media after the case management before High Court deputy registrar Mahyuddin Md Som in his chambers on Thursday (Dec 19).

She said the application was filed on Dec 16 and it would be heard before High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Ghazali who is also presiding over the SRC trial.

"The expert witness is to examine the authenticity of the documents bearing Najib's signatures," she added.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Sulaiman Kho Kheng Fuei represents the prosecution team which is the respondent in Najib's application.

Najib has been called to answer seven charges of misappropriating

RM42mil in SRC funds, comprising three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), three counts of money laundering and one count of abuse of position in relation to the funds.

On Dec 9, Najib's counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah informed the court that the defence team would call a signature expert from Australia to study the authenticity of several documents bearing Najib's signatures which had been tendered to the court.

The counsel's oral application, however, was objected by DPP Datuk V. Sithambaram on the grounds that it would prejudice the prosecution's case and wanted the defence team to file a formal written application and affidavit to the court.

#### 11. Goldman officers may face trial over 1MDB case



PUTRAJAYA (Bloomberg): Malaysia's top prosecutor said he's ready to ratchet up a criminal case against Goldman Sachs Group Inc for its role in the 1MDB affair by bringing executives of the US bank to court, as the two sides remain far apart following several rounds of settlement talks.

When the time is right, Malaysia will press ahead with the prosecution of more than a dozen current and former Goldman Sachs directors "because we need them in the dock," Attorney General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas said in a Friday (Dec 20) interview.

"The 17 directors committed crime in Malaysia, which is why they are being charged, so there is no reason why we are not going against them."

Thomas is leading Malaysia's criminal case against Goldman Sachs, which was launched last year when charges were laid against three of the bank's units.

In August, Malaysia announced additional charges against 17 former and current directors, including vice-chairman Richard J. Gnodde, who heads its international business in London, and J. Michael Evans, a former partner who's now president of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

Malaysia has had two or three rounds of negotiations with Goldman Sachs, and remains open to further talks, Thomas said. But a settlement remains distant, he added.

"There is still a Pacific Ocean gulf between Malaysia and Goldman Sachs," he said. "But as far as we're concerned, the door to settlement is always open. They know where we are, they can come and see us if they want to find us."

Representatives for Goldman Sachs and Alibaba declined to comment.

Thomas's comments contrast with recent reports that Goldman Sachs is making progress in talks with US and Malaysian authorities to put the 1MDB scandal behind it. The bank is said to be negotiating with the US for a

US\$2bil settlement that would include an admission of guilt by a unit in Asia. A figure of at least US\$2bil has been floated in the settlement talks with Malaysia, Bloomberg reported earlier this month.

Thomas said he didn't have direct knowledge of the progress of the US settlement talks. But he said Malaysia had heard from contacts at the US Justice Department that a resolution remains "very far away." Any agreements struck with the US or other jurisdictions won't affect the prosecution in Malaysia, he added.

Instead, Thomas said he's focused on preparing to prosecute Goldman's units and directors in a trial which he expects to start in the middle of next year.

He echoed Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in saying Malaysia will seek compensation from Goldman Sachs that includes the US\$6.5bil value of bonds the bank arranged for 1MDB, as well as interest. That totals US\$8bil to US\$9bil, he said.

At a hearing on Monday (Dec 16) in Kuala Lumpur, the case against two of the three Goldman Sachs units facing charges was moved to the Malaysian High Court.

"We prepare for the trial, and if there is settlement talks, we can do it simultaneously," Thomas said in the interview at his office in Putrajaya.

Thomas's appointment last year was part of Malaysia's revived probe of the 1MDB scandal, which has also resulted in former premier Datuk Seri Najib Razak standing trial on corruption charges.

The state-owned fund is looking into claims against other banks, accountants, lawyers and subsidiary players who may also be involved in the scandal, Thomas said.

Those cases could extend beyond Thomas's two-year term, which is set to end in June 2020. He said he hasn't decided whether he would seek to extend his stay.

"I am happy with two years in the government, but I am happy to go back to the private sector," Thomas said.

**12. In US 1MDB probes Goldman Sachs may admit guilt, pay US\$2bil fine to settle**



The government of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak set up the 1MDB fund in 2009, and the U.S. Justice Department estimated \$4.5 billion was misappropriated by high-level fund officials and their associates between 2009 and 2014. Goldman has been investigated by regulators in at least 14 countries, including the United States, Malaysia, Singapore and others, for its underwriting role and what it did and did not know at the time of the transactions.

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs Group Inc is in talks with the U.S. government and a state regulator to possibly pay up to \$2 billion and admit guilt to resolve investigations into its role in the 1MDB Malaysian corruption scandal, according to a source familiar with the matter.

The bank and U.S. officials have discussed a deal in which a Goldman subsidiary in Asia would plead guilty to violating U.S. bribery laws, the Wall Street Journal first reported on Thursday.

The discussions could also involve Goldman installing an independent monitor to oversee and recommend changes to its compliance procedures. Involved in the discussions are three federal regulators - the U.S. Department of Justice, Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve - and New York's Department of Financial Services, according to the source.

In a statement, the bank said that settlement talks are ongoing and it continues to cooperate with regulators.

The SEC and the Justice Department declined to comment. Representatives for the other regulators did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A settlement could be announced in late January, sources familiar with negotiations said.

The government of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak set up the 1MDB fund in 2009, and the U.S. Justice Department estimated \$4.5 billion was misappropriated by high-level fund officials and their associates between 2009 and 2014.

Goldman has been investigated by regulators in at least 14 countries, including the United States, Malaysia, Singapore and others, for its underwriting role and what it did and did not know at the time of the transactions.

In November 2018, the U.S. Justice Department filed criminal charges against two former Goldman Sachs bankers tied to the scandal, Tim Leissner and Roger Ng.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, Goldman earned \$600 million in fees for its work with 1MDB. Leissner, Ng and others received large bonuses in connection with that revenue.

The bank has consistently tried to distance itself from the scandal, saying Leissner and Ng worked to conceal their criminal activities from bank management.

Leissner pleaded guilty to the charges last year. Ng pleaded not guilty to charges in May, and his case is currently pending in federal court in Brooklyn.

Spokespeople for Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and the attorney general of Malaysia did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

**13. I sensed there was enough money, claims Najib**



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (*pic*) told the High Court here that he had a 'sense' that there was enough money in his bank accounts, so he kept issuing cheques even without knowing their exact balance.

Najib, 66, said he would only ask his former principal private secretary, the late Datuk Azlin Alias, to check with SRC International Sdn Bhd CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil regarding the balance in his accounts.

"Nik Faisal and Azlin did not tell me the exact balance left in the accounts and I had never contacted Nik Faisal directly even though he was the mandate holder for my accounts," he said during cross-examination by ad-hoc prosecutor, Datuk V. Sithambaram.

In response to this, Sithambaram said nobody issued cheques without knowing the exact balance in the account, especially when Najib who held the Finance Minister's position at that time did this.

To a question by Sithambaram, the Pekan MP reiterated that he believed that the monies in his bank accounts ending with 880,898 and 906 came from a donation by an Arab royal family.

"I have no knowledge and I never questioned the funds being paid into my accounts until it became an issue," he said.

Najib also agreed with Sithambaram's suggestion that he wrote cheques amounting to millions of ringgit for among others, political use.

Sithambaram also questioned Najib over his allegedly different responses to whether he signed the Minister of Finance Inc (MKD) minutes on allowing an amendment to the 1Malaysia Development Bhd's (1MDB) memorandum and articles of association (M&A).

Sithambaram said the amendment was to insert Article 117, which provided great power to then premier Najib in relation to the 1MDB board's decision-making.

Sithambaram: In your written witness statement, you said that you could not be sure whether you signed the amendment to 1MDB's M&A due to the strangeness of the corporate documents but during cross-examination by Attorney-General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas, you confirmed it was your signature.

Najib: Yes but that is subject to seeing the original document.

Sithambaram then remarked that while Najib was a careful man in that he even issued a press statement regarding chocolates that went missing during a police raid at his residence, he had not paid much attention to his personal and government's funds.

Najib, however, said it was a complaint (on chocolates) from his daughter.

Sithambaram: So you have issued a press release... it was not your chocolates then?

Najib: Not mine.

Sithambaram: I find it difficult that the (former) prime minister and finance minister is quite clueless on his financial accounts.

Najib: You can ask my private secretary, who is managing my personal accounts.

Towards the end of the afternoon's proceeding, Sithambaram informed judge Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali that he was feeling dizzy and nauseous, and proposed for an early adjournment for the day.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah did not object to the application.

The court erupted into laughter when Justice Mohd Nazlan asked whether Sithambaram was not feeling well due to constant interruption from Najib's co-counsel Harvinderjit Singh.

Allowing the prosecution's application, the judge set for the trial to resume on Jan 6 and reminded Najib that he is still under oath

and not to discuss the case with anyone.

On Nov 11, Najib was ordered to enter his defence on seven charges of misappropriating RM42mil of SRC International Sdn Bhd funds, comprising three counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), three counts of money laundering and one count of abuse of position.



#### 14. LKIM allocates RM60mil housing aid for fishermen next year



SUNGAI PETANI (Bernama): The Malaysian Fisheries Development Board (LKIM) has allocated RM60mil to build houses for fishermen next year through the Fishermen Resettlement Project (PSN).

LKIM chairman Muhammad Faiz Fadzil said RM20mil each has been allocated for the project in Labuan, Sabah and Terengganu, benefiting 920 recipients.

"This project will build cheap houses costing RM54,000 for 120 fishermen in Labuan, 300 in Sabah and 500 in Terengganu.

Speaking to reporters after a ceremony to hand over the house keys to participants for the PSN project in Tanjung Dawai here Wednesday (Dec 25), Muhammad Faiz said to date, LKIM had allocated RM193mil for the project and benefited 1,822 fishermen.

On the event today, he said 72 fishermen received their house keys, bringing the total number of recipients in Tanjung Dawai to 279 fishermen, while the remaining 21 will get their houses in stages.

Muhammad Faiz said the fishermen will pay RM150 a month for 30 years. -

#### 15. High Court sets Jan 14 for mention of Goldman Sachs case



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The High Court has set Jan 14 next year for mention of the government's RM27.2bil (US\$6.5bil) 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) bond cases against Goldman Sachs (Singapore) Pte.

Deputy public prosecutor Zaki Asyraf Zubir told reporters that judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan fixed the date in chambers after being informed by the prosecution that it was still in the process of serving the notice of summons against Goldman Sachs (Singapore).

Following which, the court set Jan 14 next year to mention the case to obtain the latest status on the matter, he added.

Also present were lawyers Krishna Dallumah and Datuk Prem Ramachandran, representing Goldman Sachs (Singapore).

The court had previously fixed Thursday (Dec 26) to hear the prosecution's application to transfer the case involving Goldman Sachs (Singapore) from the Magistrate's Court to the High Court.

In December last year, Malaysia filed four charges against Goldman Sachs for allegedly leaving out material facts on the sale of bonds between a subsidiary of 1MDB and Aabar Investment PJS Ltd (Aabar).

The offences were allegedly committed at 1MDB's premises at Level 8, Menara IMC, No. 8, Jalan Sultan Ismail here, between March 19, 2012, and November 11, 2013.

The company was charged under Section 179 (c) of the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007, which carries a penalty of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years and a fine of not less than RM1mil, upon conviction.

Former Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng Chong Hwa had also claimed trial to four counts of abetting the company, in reference to the sale of the same bonds by omitting material facts and making false statements.

The US Department of Justice has estimated that about US\$4.5bil was misappropriated from 1MDB between 2009 and 2014

### 16. Jan 14 mention for bond case

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The United States Department of Justice has estimated that about US\$4.5bil was misappropriated from 1MDB between 2009 and 2014.

#### 17. Former VC acquitted of abuse of power



IPOH: The Sessions Court acquitted and discharged a former Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) vice-chancellor over a charge of abuse of power five years ago.

Prof Datuk Dr Zakaria Kasa walked out a free man after Judge S. Indera Nehru ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove a prima facie case against him.

"After taking into account the evidence presented by the witnesses and the submissions from both sides, you are acquitted and discharged without calling for defence," she said.

Zakaria, now 62, was charged in November last year at a Sessions Court here.

In an amended charge sheet, it was stated that between June 24 and Sept 12, 2014 at his office, as the vice-chancellor, he used his position to order UPSI's registrar to insert the name of his (Zakaria's) son to be called for a job interview at the university on Sept 12.

By doing so, he committed an offence under Section 23 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009.

Shahidah Muslimah Roslan, Noor Hidayah Mohd Saad, and Mohd Khairul Fairuz Rahman represented Zakaria, while MACC's deputy public prosecutor Nurul Wahida Jalaluddin prosecuted.