

The Star Feb 202

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
1	Saturday, 1 February 2020	Rosmah's corruption trial begins Feb 3	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	3
2	Wednesday, 5 February 2020	Negri MB denies son hauled up by MACC	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	5
3	Wednesday, 5 February 2020	Bank officer tells court in Rosmah trial cash withdrawals of RM5mil, RM1.5mil were made	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	6
4	Thursday, 6 February 2020	MACC denies claims it took no action over alleged corruption in MBPJ	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	8
5	Monday, 10 February 2020	Get to the root of corruption	MACC Act 2009	9
6	Monday, 10 February 2020	Duo charged with submitting false claims worth over RM800,000	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	11
7	Tuesday, 11 February 2020	Defence alleges Mahdzir has gambling habit in Rosmah's corruption trial	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	12
8	Wednesday, 12 February 2020	Mahdzir denies gambling habit claims	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	15
9	Thursday, 13 February 2020	I'm not stupid, says Mahdzir	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	18
10	Thursday, 13 February 2020	Rosmah trial: Mahdzir denies appointing lawyer to broker deal with MACC	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	21
11	Monday, 17 February 2020	SRC trial postponed, High Court to decide on defence interview of witness on Feb 24	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	23
12	Tuesday, 18 February 2020	Court to decide on MACC IO interview	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	24

The Star Feb 2020

Bil.	Tarikh	Tajuk Berita	Catatan	Muka Surat
13	Friday, 21 February 2020	Ahmad Maslan files bid to strike out money laundering, false statement charges	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	25
14	Friday, 22 February 2020	Najib, Rosmah statements taken	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	27
15	Monday, 24 February 2020	Najib's SRC trial: High Court dismisses application to compel witness to be interviewed ahead of testimony	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	29
16	Wednesday, 26 February 2020	Two plead guilty to bribing Immigration officer	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	31
17	Wednesday, 26 February 2020	Former spy chief withdraws appeal	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	33
18	Wednesday, 26 February 2020	SRC trial: RM32mil of 170mil 'advance' ended up in Najib's personal bank accounts	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	35
19	Thursday, 27 February 2020	MACC officer can't confirm if individual he met in Riyadh was Saudi king, court told	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	37
21	Thursday, 27 February 2020	Shahrir among 34 who failed to quash MACC compounds	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	39
21	Thursday, 27 February 2020	RM32mil ended up in Najib's accounts	The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)	41

1. Rosmah's corruption trial begins Feb 3



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (*pic*), will make an appearance at separate High Courts here on Monday (Feb 3) for their criminal trials.

As for Rosmah, 69, it will be the first day of her corruption trial in connection with the supply and installation of solar energy at 369 rural schools in Sarawak, which is before Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan, while Najib, 67, is scheduled to continue his defence before Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali for allegedly misappropriating RM42mil in SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

Rosmah's case will begin at 2pm, while Najib's trial to start at 9am.

Rosmah is facing three counts of corruption involving hundreds of millions of ringgit.

A source said the prosecution will call about 25 witnesses, with two of them expected to take the stand on Monday after the prosecution read out its opening statement.

Rosmah, was initially supposed to be tried with her former special officer, Datuk Rizal Mansor, who was charged with four counts of soliciting and receiving bribes on behalf of Rosmah over the project.

However, on Jan 8, the court acquitted Rizal of the charges after the prosecution withdrew all four charges against him.

On Nov 15, 2018, Rosmah pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here to two counts of soliciting RM187.5mil and receiving RM1.5mil for projects to provide solar energy to rural schools in Sarawak.

On the first count, she was charged with dishonestly soliciting for herself, made through Rizal, a gratification, to the amount of RM187,500,000, which is 15 per cent of the value of the contract for the project, from Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin.

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

She was charged with committing the offence at Lygon Cafe', G-24, Ground Floor, Sunway Putra Mall, 100, Jalan Putra, Chow Kit, here between March and April 2016.

On the second count, Rosmah was charged with dishonestly receiving for herself RM1,500,000 from Saidi for the same purpose at No. 11, Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta, here on Sept 7, 2017.

She was charged under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC), and faced an imprisonment for up to 20 years and fine of not less than five times the amount of the gratification of RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

On April 10, 2019, Rosmah was charged again in the Sessions Court here with accepting gratification of RM5mil from Saidi through Rizal for helping Jepak Holdings to secure the same project at the same place in Jalan Langgak Duta.

All the cases had been transferred from the Sessions Court to the High Court for trial.

Rosmah is also facing 12 charges for money laundering involving RM7,097,750 and five counts of failing to declare her income to the Inland Revenue Board (IRB). This brings the total number of charges against her to 20

The case has been fixed for trial in May this year

2. Negri MB denies son hauled up by MACC

SEREMBAN: Negri Sembilan Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun denies that his son has been called in by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for allegedly being involved in corrupt activities.

Aminuddin said his son, whom he did not name, was at home and that talk of him having been questioned by the MACC was news to him.

"This is slander, and seems like another attempt to take away my focus on executing my duties.

"My humble appeal to those behind such talk is to stop it, as this is dosa besar (a great sin)," he told reporters after chairing the state exco meeting at Wisma Negri Wednesday (Feb 5).

Aminuddin was asked to comment on a social media post that the MACC had met his son regarding a project in the state.

Aminuddin has five children. Three are boys.

However, the post did not mention which son was apparently met by the MACC or details of the project.

Aminuddin said those who felt that he or any member of his family was abusing their position should report the matter to the MACC.

"Do not make up stories, please. If you have proof that there is abuse of power or position, please report it with proof," he said.

He also appealed to the public not to believe everything they read on social media.

"People have the habit of telling stories all the time. On our part, we should be able to gauge if these are true or otherwise," he said.

Aminuddin reminded those who spread false news to slander and discredit others that they would face God's wrath in the afterlife.

3. Bank officer tells court in Rosmah trial cash withdrawals of RM5mil, RM1.5mil were made

KUALA LUMPUR: Two separate withdrawals of RM5mil and RM1.5mil were made at the Medan Tuanku branch of Maybank by Saidi Abang Samsudin, the High Court heard on Wednesday (Feb 5).

Maybank bank officer Azimah Aziz, who is the third prosecution witness for the graft and solicitation of bribery trial of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, said that the RM5mil and RM1.5mil were withdrawn in denominations of RM100.

Saidi, who was Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd's managing director, had requested for the RM5mil withdrawal on Dec 19, 2016, said Azimah.

She added that the money was delivered to the branch the next day, Dec 20, 2016, via a delivery by Armour Security.

Saidi also came to the branch the same day to collect the money, she said.

"On that day, Saidi came with a Malay man, and he went into the cash room. Saidi took the money and recounted it and put it in the bag he was carrying," she said.

Azimah said that Saidi withdrew the RM1.5mil on Sept 7, 2017, at the same Maybank branch.

"I recognise Saidi, as I have dealt with him before. While in the cash room, a tanned man (berkulit sawo matang) came in carrying what I remember as black backpacks.

"Before I handed the money to Saidi, I did ask him what was the reason for the withdrawal. He only answered that it was for his business.

"Seeing that he seemed reluctant to share the reason for the withdrawal, I didn't ask further questions," she added.

She said that Saidi placed the RM1.5mil, which was in denominations of RM100, into two backpacks carried by the tanned man.

Meanwhile, second prosecution witness Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officer Mohd Redzuan Othaman identified a photograph as being of Rosmah's living room where a bag containing RM1.5mil was allegedly placed in on Sept 7, 2017.

The photograph was one in a series of 10 photographs that were taken on Nov 2, 2018 by him, he said.

Under cross-examination by defense counsel Datuk Akberdin Abdul Kader, Redzuan, however, admitted that he did not personally witness the bag being in the room.

The trial continues before High Court judge Justice Mohamed Zaini Mazlan tomorrow (Thurs, Feb 6).

Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram leads the prosecution while Datuk Jagjit Singh leads the defence.

On Nov 15, 2018, Rosmah claimed trial to two charges of graft involving RM187.5mil related to projects to provide electricity to schools in Sarawak.

According to the first charge, Rosmah was accused of soliciting for herself a RM187.5mil bribe from Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin, through her former aide Datuk Rizal Mansor.

The money was a reward for helping Jepak Holdings obtain a project, through direct negotiations with the Education Ministry, to install solar hybrid systems and for the maintenance and operation of diesel generators for 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

The project, known as "Project Bersepadu Sistem Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Hibrid", was valued at RM1.25bil; and RM187.5mil is 15% of that amount.

Rosmah allegedly committed the offence at Lygon Cafe, Sunway Putra Mall in Jalan Putra here between January and April 2016.

In the second charge, she was accused of receiving RM1.5mil from Saidi as a reward for assisting Jepak Holdings obtain the same project.

The offence was allegedly committed at her house in Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta, on Sept 7, 2017.

On April 10, 2019, Rosmah was charged again for allegedly receiving a bribe of RM5mil from Saidi through Rizal, for the same purpose.

She allegedly committed the offence at Seri Perdana Residence, Persiaran Seri Perdana, Precinct 10, Putrajaya, on Dec 20, 2016.

All of the charges were framed under Section 16(a)(A) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009.

Rosmah faces imprisonment of up to 20 years and a fine of no less than five times the amount of gratification or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if convicted.

4. MACC denies claims it took no action over alleged corruption in MBPJ

PETALING JAYA: Investigations into alleged conflict of interest in the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) are still ongoing, says the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Selangor MACC director Datuk Alias Salim also denied that no action had been taken.

He added that specific details of the investigations could not be revealed currently "as it will prejudice the ongoing probe".

On Feb 3, Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran alleged the MACC had still not acted on his report.

During a press conference at his office, he said a whistleblower had informed his office about the alleged misuse of power involving projects that had not been started despite payments having been made.

"We had in fact responded in writing as recently as Dec 4, 2019 and Jan

20 (2020) to his queries on the status of the matter and informed him that the investigations are still ongoing.

"His queries did not go unanswered, " Alias said in a statement Thursday (July 6).

5. Get to the root of corruption

THE fight against corruption continues unceasingly whether in Malaysia or elsewhere in the global village that the world has become. The slight improvement of Malaysia's score on the latest Transparency International Corruption Perception index, rising to 51st position among 180 countries, offered some cheer in the battle against this scourge plaguing the country both in the public and private sectors.

But just when one would have thought things are getting better, a development offshore has raised eyebrows on a Malaysian domiciled entity. On Jan 31, Airbus and the United Kingdom's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) entered into a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA). In return for a suspension of prosecution by the SFO, Airbus agreed to pay a significant fine and costs (€3.6bil) to the SFO. It also agreed to a statement of facts that appears to implicate executives of AirAsia and AirAsia X, alleging that Airbus paid a bribe of US\$50mil (RM200mil) to win aircraft orders.

So what exactly is a DPA? Who enters into it and why would Airbus, a well-known entity, enter into this arrangement, resulting in collateral damage to a Malaysian entity?

A DPA, as in the Airbus case, is an agreement reached between a prosecutor and an organisation, which could be prosecuted under the supervision of a judge. The agreement allows a prosecution to be suspended for a defined period provided the organisation meets certain specified conditions.

In essence, an entity comes clean on its misdemeanours, which includes providing details on the bribes that it has given to secure contracts. Logically, no entity will claim to have given more bribes, both in terms of quantity and quantum, than it actually has, as these revelations will reflect the size of the fine imposed. This is basic logic whatever the legal standpoint!

Deferred prosecution does not require a guilty plea. The defendant is instead placed on probation prior to submitting a plea. DPAs can be used in potential cases of fraud, bribery, and other economic crime.

The Prime Minister had commented on this episode, among them in the report "Normal to have offset in business" (The Star, Feb7).

As initially reported in the media, it seemed to allude that offset payments are normal when purchases are made for big ticket items like aircraft purchases. This has subsequently been clarified by the Prime Minister's Office to be a misinterpretation of the statement. This is most welcome as it is interpreted by the layman that such behaviour is a normal business practice.

In reality, the converse is true as it goes against the grain of corruption as defined in the MACC Act 2009. It further casts a pall of doubt against the current exploratory investigation work being undertaken by other independent agencies, namely the Securities Commission, Minority Shareholder Watchdog Group and Malaysia Aviation Commission that are individually and collectively unrelenting in their efforts to combat corruption.

In the political arena, it is not uncommon for "offsets" to be received in the form of donations to preferred political parties. The donations do not go into the pockets of any one individual but to a common pool of funds to be used in election campaigns. Unfortunately, there continues to be lethargy in introducing the Political Funding Act to control this practice.

It is noted that progress had been made by the previous administration in enacting the corporate liability provision as defined in the amendments to the MACC Act 2009, reflected in Section 17A. This comes into force in June this year.

While we may pat ourselves on the back for the efforts taken to date, there is still much work to be done. Politicians should choose their words carefully so as not to create the perception that certain forms of bribery are acceptable in the normal course of business.

Bribery and corruption should be abhorred at all levels. It robs the country's economy and has a consequential detrimental effect on the well-being of its populace.

The agencies currently investigating this episode should not be influenced by any quarters and should leave no stone unturned in their efforts to get to the crux of this affair.

6. Duo charged with submitting false claims worth over RM800,000

JOHOR BARU: A district health officer and an assistant accountant were charged in the Sessions Court with 49 counts of corruption involving over RM800,000 between 2015 and 2016.

Dr Zaharah Mohd Salleh, 59, and Noor Shazriena Miskam, 34, pleaded not guilty when the charges were read out to them separately before Judge Kamarudin Kamsun here yesterday.

Dr Zaharah was charged with providing false payment vouchers totalling RM807,816.27 to the Health Ministry, which included payment for the supply of goods involving five companies which she allegedly knew were false and not supplied. Noor Shazriena was charged with abetting Dr Zaharah in committing the offences under Section 28(1)(c) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption (MACC) Act, read together with Section 18, and punishable under Section 24(2) of the same Act.

They were charged with committing the offences at the Ledang Health Office between March 2015 and November 2016.

Dr Zaharah is alleged to have committed the offence under Section 18 of the MACC Act 2009, which is punishable under Section 24(2) of the same act.

The charges provide for a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine of no less than five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

MACC deputy public prosecutor Suhaili Sapun suggested the court offer bail of RM100,000 for each of the accused.

Lawyers Gan Seong Kim and Siti Nasrina Hasbullah, who represented Dr Zaharah and Noor Shazriena, appealed for the reduction in the sum on the grounds that Dr Zaharah was suffering from colon cancer while Noor Shazriena had five children to support.

Kamarudin set bail at RM50,000 for Dr Zaharah, and RM60,000 for Noor Shazriena, in one surety each.

The court also ordered the accused to surrender their passports before setting March 15 for mention.

7. Defence alleges Mahdzir has gambling habit in Rosmah's corruption trial



KUALA LUMPUR: Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's defence team alleges that Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (*pic*) wanted a bribe for himself from the solar hybrid project to fund his gambling addiction, the High Court heard on Tuesday (Feb 11).

The defence also accused the former education minister of stabbing former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife in their backs to escape from being charged with corruption himself, on day four of Rosmah's corruption trial.

Defence counsel Datuk Jagjit Singh, during cross-examination, claimed that Mahdzir often travelled on a private jet to Macau, Singapore and Perth to gamble.

Jagjit: When you travelled to Alor Setar, you travelled by private jet?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You travelled by private jets during campaign periods?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: Did you also use private jets for your gambling trips to Macau, Singapore and Perth?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: What if I get the travel records from the private jet company?

Mahdzir: Okay.

Jagjit: You don't gamble at all? You need all this money to feed your gambling habits.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

The court also heard that Mahdzir wanted Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin to appoint a man named Haji Puad from Kedah as a consultant for the solar hybrid project as he would act as a conduit for him to receive corrupt money.

Jagjit: I put it to you that you had demanded 20% of the project cost from Saidi and he disagreed.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: After discussion with Saidi, he agreed to pay you RM1mil per month for a period of five years which makes this a total of RM60mil.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: After Saidi agreed to pay the RM1mil per month for five years, you, in your minutes (on the project), noted down to "expedite the papers for the Finance Ministry immediately".

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You initially asked 20% which will amount to RM250mil but they disagreed and reduced the amount to RM1mil per month for five years.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: This makes you the most corrupt Education Minister since Aug 31, 1957.

Jagjit said Mahdzir was hesitant to expedite the solar hybrid project after he suspected that Saidi would not honour the commitment to pay him RM1mil per month for five years.

He said that Mahdzir suspected this when the consultancy agreement which was supposed to be drafted under Haji Puad was instead prepared under Jepak Kuching Sdn Bhd, which was a dormant company.

Jagjit also said Mahdzir had appointed a lawyer to broker a deal with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) after he was told by them that he would soon be charged with corruption.

Jagjit also accused Rosmah's aide, Datuk Rizal Mansor, of being a conduit in the whole solar hybrid project as he too demanded 10% of the entire contract sum of RM1.25bil.

Jagjit said that in "Team Saidi", the leader was, in fact, Mahdzir, himself as he had wanted to appoint "Haji Puad" as the consultant for the project.

Mahdzir, however, disagreed.

Jagjit also questioned why Mahdzir did not personally contact Rosmah to clarify issues when Rizal kept dropping names.

To this, Mahdzir said that it was because he believed in Rizal as he was an aide to Rosmah.

Jagjit, however, claimed that the reason was because he was "corrupt" that's was why he was afraid to check with her.

"You are lying to this court, the evidence is to try to get a deal with the MACC and the prosecution to leave the court free of charges," he said, to which Mahdzir disagreed.

Jagjit then also accused Mahdzir of turning against Najib and Rosmah to avoid prosecution.

"I put it to you that Datuk Viknesh (a lawyer) struck a deal with the Attorney General and prosecution not to charge you and that you would be a star witness to implicate Najib and his wife.

"You would sing any song the prosecution wants," he said, even calling Mahdzir "Brutus".

The trial continues Wednesday (Feb 11) before High Court Judge Justice Mohamed Zaini Mazlan.

8. Mahdzir denies gambling habit claims



KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (pic) was a "corrupt" person who tried to implicate Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor in a solar hybrid project case to evade corruption charges against him, the High Court heard.

The defence team of the wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak accused the former Education Minister of striking a deal with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and prosecutors to become a "star witness" in exchange for him escaping prosecution.

Yesterday, the court heard claims by Rosmah's defence team about Mahdzir's "gambling habit" and how he had sought for a RM60mil bribe from Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Shamsul for approving the solar hybrid project.

During cross-examination on the fourth day of Rosmah's graft trial, lead defence counsel Datuk Jagjit Singh said that Mahdzir had originally wanted Saidi to appoint a "Haji Puad" as a consultant for the project, adding that this person would act as a conduit for the money that Mahdzir was supposed to receive.

Jagjit: I put it to you that you had demanded 20% of the project cost from Saidi and he disagreed.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: After discussing with Saidi, he agreed to pay you RM1mil per month for a period of five years which makes this a total of RM60mil.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: After Saidi agreed to pay the RM1mil per month for five years, you, in your minutes (on the project), made a note to "expedite the papers for the Finance Ministry immediately".

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You initially asked for 20% which would amount to RM250mil but they disagreed and reduced the amount to RM1mil per month for five years.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: This makes you the most corrupt Education Minister since Aug 31,1957.

Jagjit questioned Mahdzir's account in his witness statement of him approving the project due to pressure from Saidi and Rayyan Radzwill Abdullah, his business partner, claiming instead that Mahdzir had approved it due to his own personal interest in it.

The court then heard that Mahdzir had asked the then-Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Alias Ahmad to remove a clause from the letter of acceptance of tender which Saidi and Rayyan wanted to ensure that he would get the "corrupt monies".

The clause that was removed said that the government would have the right to terminate the work or activity within the contract period, the court was told.

Jagjit: When they said you were not fit to be Education Minister, you were so upset you told the prime minister about it, yet you entertained them in your house. Is your conduct consistent? You told the prime minister you despised them but then after that you happily had them in your house.

Mahdzir: This is an order by the prime minister (giving out the letter of acceptance of tender)

Jagjit: The order from the prime minister is not for you to receive corrupt monies. Did the prime minister tell you to remove clause 11?

Mahdzir: No.

The defence alleged that Mahdzir needed the money to fund his "gambling habit", an accusation that Mahdzir vehemently denied.

Jagjit: When you travelled to Alor Setar, you travelled by private jet?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You travelled by private jets during campaign periods?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: Did you also use private jets for your gambling trips to Macau, Singapore and Perth?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: Have you ever rented a private jet for yourself?

Mahdzir: No.

Jagjit: What if I get the travel records from the private jet company?

Mahdzir: Okay.

Jagjit: You don't gamble at all? You need all this money to feed your gambling habit.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit then questioned Mahdzir why he never personally contacted Rosmah over the solar hybrid project despite his wife being good friends with Rosmah.

To this, Mahdzir gave two reasons for not doing so; one being that as the wife of the then-prime minister there was a distance between Rosmah and him, and secondly, he trusted Datuk Rizal Mansor's words as Rosmah's aide.

The court then heard that Mahdzir had implicated Najib and Rosmah on the solar hybrid project to save himself.

Jagjit added Mahdzir had appointed a lawyer to broker a deal with the MACC after he was told by them that he would soon be charged with corruption.

He alleged that Mahdzir's lawyer, who was only referred to as Datuk Viknesh in court, used his friendship with lead prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram to broker a deal with the prosecution so that he could avoid being charged for corruption.

"Datuk Viknesh wrote a letter of representation (for you to escape prosecution).

"MACC was not happy that you were not being charged because the evidence against you was overwhelming while the evidence against Rosmah was inconclusive," he said.

Mahdzir disagreed with this claim.

9. I'm not stupid, says Mahdzir



KUALA LUMPUR: "I'm not stupid," stressed Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (*pic*), as the defence continued to accuse him of giving inconsistent statements in court at Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's corruption trial.

Tensions flared yesterday as lead counsel Datuk Jagjit Singh spent hours trying to paint the former education minister as being in cahoots with Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin and his business partner Rayyan Radzwill Abdullah to get approval for a solar hybrid project in Sarawak despite stating the opposite in his witness statement.

During cross-examination, Jagjit pointed out to Mahdzir that he was trying to help Jepak Holdings to obtain approval for the project.

One of the ways he helped Jepak Holdings, claimed Jagjit, was by personally handing over a letter to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The letter, the court was told, asked for the exemption of several documents from being submitted to let the Education Ministry make an interim payment to Jepak Holdings.

Mahdzir strongly denied this, claiming he was not assisting Saidi and Rayyan as the letter was not prepared by him but by the ministry's officers.

He said the project was by the ministry and not of his own accord.

Jagjit: This was a letter which you signed?

Mahdzir: Yes, but I don't know how much (is the interim payment). Ministry's officers are the ones preparing the letter.

Jagjit: You knew because you had already received corrupt monies.

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You knew everything.

Mahdzir: I'm not stupid. I'm not stupid.

Jagjit: Then don't act stupid.

Earlier, Jagjit also told Mahdzir that he could continue with the cross-examination until "death", an exchange that started in a heated tone but ended with laughter.

Jagjit: You are not consistent.

Mahdzir: From the very beginning, you wanted me to be like that.

Jagjit: Until death also I can continue to do this (cross-examination).

"Do not be like that," replied Mahdzir, prompting laughter from court.

Jagjit suggested that Mahdzir's statements contained "avoidance, confessions and deflections".

Mahdzir disagreed.

Jagjit said Mahdzir was trying to pin the blame on Najib and Rosmah despite his complicity in the solar hybrid project.

Jagjit: It is a deflection. You blame the prime minister because of his orders. You agree?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Jagjit: You pushed the responsibility to the prime minister. This is what is meant by deflection. You

agree?Mahdzir: I disagree.

Defence counsel Datuk Akberdin Abdul Kader said Mahdzir made Najib a "black sheep" in this case, which Mahdzir denied.

Jagjit then repeated the defence's claim that it was Mahdzir, not Rosmah, who was helping Saidi and Rayyan obtain approval for the solar hybrid project in exchange

for a bribe.

The repeated line of questioning got the defence ticked off by Justice Mohamed Zaini Mazlan.

The High Court judge told the defence that they had already covered the topic extensively.

To this, Akberdin said the defence was trying to establish whether Mahdzir knew Jepak Holdings was facing financial difficulties.

Mahdzir denied knowledge of Saidi and Rayyan's arrest by the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC).

He also denied that he was arrested by the MACC, claiming he was only questioned by them.

Earlier, apart from the tension between Mahdzir and the defence lawyer, the court also saw yesterday's session being adjourned earlier as Rosmah refused to leave the dock for lunch break despite coaxing from her aides and lawyers.

Her lawyers then asked for a brief session with Justice Zaini in open court, with Jagjit briefing the judge on Rosmah's medical condition.

10. Rosmah trial: Mahdzir denies appointing lawyer to broker deal with MACC



KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (*pic*) rejected the defence's allegation that he appointed a lawyer to broker a deal with the prosecution to escape corruption charges during Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor's corruption trial at the High Court on Thursday (Feb 13).

The former education minister told the court that he instead engaged the services of a lawyer in relation to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) investigation of him in 2018.

The defence had previously claimed that Mahdzir appointed a "Datuk Vignesh" to strike a deal with the MACC and the prosecution to become a witness in exchange for avoiding being charged with corruption.

Defence counsel Datuk Jagjit Singh produced a letter dated Nov 27, 2018, from law firm Messrs Vignesh Kumar and Associates that was addressed to the Attorney General.

The letter, shown in court, stated that Mahdzir was willing to "co-operate" with the authorities and to "testify against the prime mover of the scheme".

The letter also stated that the firm's client (Mahdzir) had given a statement to MACC on Oct 17, 2018 in regards to investigations into the solar hybrid project contract.

Jagjit: I give it to you that this letter was given to the prosecution to broker a deal (to escape being charged)?

Mahdzir: I disagree.

Mahdzir then disagreed with the defence's suggestion that the "prime mover" referred to Rosmah's former aide Datuk Rizal Mansor or Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin.

11. SRC trial postponed, High Court to decide on defence interview of witness on Feb 24

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court will decide next Monday (Feb 24) whether an investigating officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) could be compelled to give an interview to the defence before testifying in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial.

The issue came up when lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who is representing Datuk Seri Najib Razak, informed the court that the witness, MACC assistant commissioner Mohd Nashrudin Amir refused to be interviewed.

The witness is scheduled to take the stand in the SRC trial where Najib is accused of misappropriating RM42mil of SRC's funds.

Shafee said Nashrudin cancelled a meeting with the defence on Feb 15.

"It is a precondition for us to call a witness so we can interview them. Any witness called (to the stand) without interviewing them would be a total negligence.

"The witness can turn out to be a kamikaze witness that destroys our case in a fair or unfair manner," he said here Monday (Feb 17).

Meanwhile, lead prosecutor Datuk V.Sithambaram said the prosecution was of the view that the court has no jurisdiction to compel the witness to be interviewed by the lawyers first before they were called to the stand.

Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali then asked both parties to submit on the issue next Monday and adjourned the proceedings for the day.

12. Court to decide on MACC IO interview

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court will hear an application next Monday whether an investigating officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) could be compelled to give an interview to the defence before testifying in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial.

The issue came up when lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who is representing Datuk Seri Najib Razak, informed the court that the witness refused to be interviewed.

The witness, MACC assistant commissioner Mohd Nashrudin Amir, is scheduled to take the stand in the SRC trial where Najib is accused of misappropriating RM42mil of SRC's funds.

Shafee said despite initially agreeing to an interview, Nashrudin subsequently cancelled a meeting with the defence on Feb 15.

"That morning, as I was getting ready, the witness strangely said he did not want to be interviewed, " he said yesterday.

Shafee said it was a precondition for the defence to interview a witness before putting them on the stand.

"Calling any witness (to the stand) without an interview would be negligence.

"The witness can turn out to be a kamikaze witness that destroys our case in a fair or unfair manner, " he added.

Lead prosecutor, Datuk V. Sithambaram, said the court had no jurisdiction to compel the witness to be interviewed by the lawyers prior to taking the stand.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas, told the court that any ruling it made would have far-reaching effects.

He said the witness should be entitled to engage his own lawyer and for the lawyer to submit on his behalf.

Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali then asked for both parties to submit on the issue next Monday before adjourning proceedings.

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

13. Ahmad Maslan files bid to strike out money laundering, false statement charges



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Pontian MP Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan (*pic*) has filed an application to strike out the charge of failing to declare RM2mil he received from Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) and the charge of giving false statement to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Lawyer Hamidi Mohd Noh, representing Ahmad, 52, said the application notice was filed on Feb 11 and served to the prosecution three days later.

He said this when the case came up for mention before Sessions Court Judge Azman Ahmad here Friday (Feb 21).

Deputy Public Prosecutor Siti Noor Hafizan Zakaria confirmed the receipt of the notice, saying that she would need some time to reply.

She also told the court that the prosecution had submitted several documents, including Ahmad's statement recorded by the MACC, to the defence according to Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The court set March 26 to hear the application.

Ahmad was slapped with the two charges on Jan 21.

On the first charge, he was accused of money laundering by not stating his real income on the RM2mil he received from Najib in the Income Tax Return Form for Assessment Year 2013, and in doing so, had violated Section 113(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act 1967.

The former deputy finance minister was alleged to have received the money from Najib, believed to be proceeds from unlawful activities, through an AmIslamic Bank Berhad cheque dated Nov 27, 2013, which Ahmad personally cashed on the same day.

The offence was allegedly committed at the IRB, Duta Branch, Government Office Complex, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, on April 30, 2014.

The charge, framed under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, provides a maximum fine of RM5 million, or imprisonment for up to five years, or both, if found guilty.

On the second charge, Ahmad was accused of giving false statements to the MACC when questioned by MACC investigating officer, Principal Senior Assistant Superintendent Mohd Zairi Zainal, over the issue at the media conference room, Parliament Building, Jalan Parlimen here, between 2.45 pm and 3.30 pm on July 4, 2019.

The charge, framed under Section 32(8)c) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, provides a maximum fine of RM3mil, or imprisonment for up to five years, or both, if found guilty.

14. Najib, Rosmah statements taken

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor had their statements recorded, back to back, by the police and the anti-graft body.

Yesterday's sessions were to assist both agencies as they continued with their investigations into a series of audio recordings.

Najib and Rosmah were seen entering Bukit Aman at about 10.30am yesterday.

Both had their statements recorded separately before they left together at about 11.40am.

Bukit Aman CID deputy director (investigations and legal) Deputy Comm Mior Faridalathrash Wahid said their statements were recorded under Section 8 of the Official Secrets Act for revealing official secrets and Section 218 of the Penal Code in relation to an offence of a public servant framing an incorrect record or writing with intent to shield a person from legal punishment or property seizure.

A second round of statements was taken around 3pm at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) academy in Bukit Tunku.

They were seen leaving the compound about an hour later.

Rosmah's lawyer Rajivan Nambiar said the process went smoothly and that his clients had cooperated with the investigating officers.

"No documents were given. Their statements were over the audio recordings.

That's all I can say now because the matter is subject to investigations," he said when met outside the academy.

He added that there was no request for further statements to be taken at the moment.

Meanwhile, the MACC confirmed that it had recorded statements from Najib and Rosmah.

"We took about an hour," it said in a statement.

The case is being investigated under Section 23 of the MACC Act for abuse of power.

On Jan 8, the MACC released a series of nine audio recordings, implicating several former high-ranking officials, including Najib, alleging it was a "criminal conspiracy at the highest level".

Among others identified in the audio recordings were former MACC chief Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad, former Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim, Najib's former principal private secretary Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh and Najib's former aide Datuk Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin.

The recordings are said to have been made between Jan 5,2016 and July 29,2016.

15. Najib's SRC trial: High Court dismisses application to compel witness to be interviewed ahead of testimony

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here has dismissed an application by Datuk Seri Najib Razak (*pic*) who sought to compel an investigating officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to be interviewed by his defence team before taking the stand as a witness in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial.

In his ruling, Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali said the former prime minister's right to a fair trial would not be compromised by the officer's refusal to be interviewed prior to testifying because he would be under oath during his testimony.

"The intended witness is neither a prosecution witness nor offered to the defence. The fact that he is a public officer and the former investigating officer for another case does not change this position.

"In any event, the right of the accused to a fair trial is not compromised because he maintains the fundamental right to call the intended witness who is still subject to the subpoena and under a duty to testify truthfully if chosen to be called by the defence.

"This application is dismissed," he said here on Monday (Feb 24).

The MACC officer in question is Mohd Nasharudin Amir who was the investigating officer in Najib's RM2.28bil 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) case.

The court was also told the defence would not be calling in Australian document expert Dr Steven Strach due to an impasse relating to the terms of Dr Strach's appointment.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said they have not been provided with any report or findings by Dr Strach from his examination conducted on Feb 11 and Feb 12 apart from his preliminary report.

"We will therefore not be calling Dr Strach to testify," Shafee said.

The defence also informed the court that it would be calling former attorney general Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali, former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and its current chief commissioner Latheefa Koya as defence witnesses in the trial.

Shafee said Apandi was compliant to the subpoena issued by the defence but requested to be interviewed at a later date as his mother was unwell and he needed to visit her.

"He is currently not in the right state of mind," said Shafee.

During his tenure in office, Apandi had cleared Najib of any wrongdoing in the 1MDB scandal in 2016.

In relation to the MACC audio recordings, which were released by the MACC last month, lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram said the prosecution agreed to the defence's request to review the said recordings.

He said the prosecution would provide the true copy of the recordings with a caveat.

"We wish to put a caveat that by making available the recordings, this is done without prejudice to the prosecution's right to object to the admissibility of the audio recordings on grounds of relevance, necessity or any other grounds as provided under the law," he said.

Najib is 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.



16. Two plead guilty to bribing Immigration officer

IPOH: Two friends pleaded guilty to bribing an Immigration officer over the employment of illegal foreign workers.

Choo Chee Seng, 48, and Fabian Dang Wen Min, 51, pleaded guilty to an alternative charge under Section 214 of the Penal Code.

Both accused were initially charged in Aug last year under Section 17(b) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act.

Session Court judge S. Indera Nehru ordered both men to pay a fine of RM40,000 each or in default, six months' jail.

According to the charge sheet, a sum of RM5,000 was offered to Abdul Majid Mohamed as an inducement not to take action against Choo for the hiring of four illegal workers from Bangladesh to work in his coffee shop in Menglembu on Oct 13, 2017.

Shahidah Muslimah Roslan represented Dang, while Mohd Khairul Fairuz Rahman represented Choo.

Nurul Wahida Jalaluddin prosecuted the case.

In mitigation, Shahidah said her client was the sole breadwinner, and that he also needed to take care of his ageing mother.

Mohd Khairul said by pleading guilty, his client had saved the court's time.

According to the facts of the case, Dang had approached the officer to settle the case by offering money.

The officer had told both accused that offering bribes were an offence, but both accused still persisted in seeking his help to settle the matter.

On Oct 13, 2017, at about 12.45pm, Dang met the officer, again asking him to help settle the matter.

The officer, knowing that both accused were serious in offering bribes, decided to meet them at a restaurant in Meru Raya.

But prior to the meeting, the officer had informed the MACC about the deal.

On the same day at about 4pm, Dang handed over RM5,000 to Abdul Majid.

The MACC then arrested both men.

17. Former spy chief withdraws appeal



PUTRAJAYA (Bernama): Former director-general of Malaysia External Intelligence Organisation (MEIO) Datuk Hasanah Abdul Hamid (*pic*) on Wednesday (Feb 26), withdrew her appeal against the High Court's dismissal of her lawsuit against the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the government for not letting her consult her lawyer while she was remanded in 2018.

Hasanah, 62, told the Court of Appeal that she had discharged her counsel Datuk Shaharudin Ali and did not wish to pursue the appeal.

Deputy public prosecutor Wong Poi Yoke did not object to the withdrawal.

Justice Datuk Dr Hamid Sultan Abu Backer who sat with Datuk Seri Kamaludin Md Said and Datuk Hanipah Farikullah subsequently struck out the appeal with no order as to costs.

During previous proceedings, the court requested further submissions from the defence team on the issue whether Hasanah was an "aggrieved person" under the law and set Wednesday for mention.

Hasanah, 62, sued MACC and the government for not letting her consult her lawyer while she was remanded for six days from Aug 29, 2018, to assist the investigation into allegations of abuse of power and misappropriation of government funds for the 14th General Election (GE14).

In her originating summons, Hasanah sought a declaration that the notification letter issued by the MACC under Section 28A (8) and (9) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) prohibiting her from

consulting her lawyer while being held under remand contravened Articles 5(3) and 8 of the Federal Constitution.

She claimed that Section 28A is unlawful, null and void, and cannot be enforced against her.

In October 2018, Kuala Lumpur High Court Judge Datuk Nordin Hassan held that Section 28A (8) and (9) of the *CPC* were not discriminatory in nature as it did not deny the right to counsel, but it was rather the suspension of those rights during the remand period.

On Oct 25, 2018, the former MEIO chief was charged with criminal breach of trust involving US\$12.1mil (RM50.4mil), to which she claimed trial

18. SRC trial: RM32mil of 170mil 'advance' ended up in Najib's personal bank accounts



KUALA LUMPUR: A total of RM170mil entered Putra Perdana Constructions (PPC) Sdn Bhd as an "advance" for a contract and from that amount, RM32mil ended up in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts, the High Court was told.

Putrajaya Perdana Bhd (PPB) group managing director Datuk Rosman Abdullah, 53, testified at the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial involving Najib that monies were transferred into its subsidiary company's bank account in three tranches.

Rosman then said that the three tranches were RM35mil on July 8, 2014; RM105mil on July 14, 2014; and RM30mil on Aug 8, 2014 and added the transfers were made on the instructions of fugitive financier Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low.

"I was initially told by Low that the RM170mil was an advance for a contract he was negotiating to be entered into by PPC," he said.

PPB is the parent company that owns PPC.

He added that out of the RM170mil, RM27mil was banked into Najib's AmBank account ending 880 on July 8, 2014 and RM5mil was banked into his account ending 906 on Sept 10, 2014.

However, Rosman said he did not know that the accounts belonged to Najib.

"I was shocked when my attention was later drawn to certain Internet publications which alleged that the accounts belonged to Najib. When I was remanded by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in July 2015, the investigators also told me the same thing," he said.

Rosman said this during the examination-in-chief by Najib's lawyer Farhan Read here on Wednesday (Feb 26).

He is the major shareholder of the PPB Group through his wholly-owned company Cendana Destini Sdn Bhd.

The company acquired an interest in the PPB Group from UBG Bhd (Utama Banking Group) which is owned by Low for a purchase price of RM240mil.

The sale agreement was in 2012 but the acquisition was only completed on April 13, 2015, after the purchase price of RM240mil was fully paid.

At the time the RM170mil came into PPC, Low was still the beneficial owner of PPB Group.

"I did not think I had a say in this, as long as there was no eventual liability to the PPB Group when my buy-out was concluded," he added.

The witness said there was no agreement to advance monies to Najib at any time and he had never consented to such action.

Rosman was arrested by the MACC on July 24, 2015 and remanded for four days before he was released.

He said prior to his arrest, Low came across as a competent and trustworthy businessman.

"We developed what seemed to me at that time to be a cordial professional relationship. I thought of him also as a micro manager.

"Subsequent to my arrest and remand, and now having what seems to be a clear picture of what happened in the RM170mil transfer episode, I would describe him as a highly smooth and effective scammer in so far as these transactions are concerned," he added.

Najib is 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.

19. MACC officer can't confirm if individual he met in Riyadh was Saudi king, court told



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court heard that an officer from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) who was involved in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) probe could not confirm that a man he met in Saudi Arabia was the prince who was behind four purported letters claiming of a RM2.6bil donation.

Lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who is representing Datuk Seri Najib Razak in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial here on Thursday (Feb 27), showed Asst Comm Mohd Nasharudin Amir four purported letters on the Arab donations and asked whether Prince Saud Abdulaziz was the same person behind all four letters.

The witness replied in the affirmative.

Nasharudin, who has since been off the 1MDB case, said the investigation into the donation took him and several others to Saudi Arabia on Nov 27, 2015.

The others on the trip were MACC senior officers Fikri Ab Rahim, Mohd Hafaz Nazar, former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki.

Shafee: Who is this Saud Abdulaziz?

Nasharudin: Based on his name, he is a dignitary. He is of royal descent.

Shafee: How do you know that he is royalty?

Nasharudin: I don't know. I'm not sure if the person I met was Saud or someone else.

Shafee: Where did you meet him?

Nasharudin: At a big house. It was like a palace. It was in Riyadh on Nov 29, 2015.

Shafee: Was it the Riyadh palace?

Nasharudin: I don't know.

The witness admitted that he had gone on the trip not knowing what the arrangement was, but said it was important to be in Saudi Arabia.

"Yang penting Arab Saudi (What is important is Saudi Arabia)," he added.

When cross-examined by lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram, Nasharudin said that Saud had not signed any statement recorded by the MACC.

He agreed to suggestions that one Abdullah Al Koman, who was a translator, had given a statement to the MACC on behalf of the prince who did not speak English.

Najib is 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.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali on Monday (March 2).

20. Shahrir among 34 who failed to quash MACC compounds



Former Felda chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here rejected an application for judicial review by 34 individuals, including former Felda chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad and Pontian MP Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan to strike out the compound notices of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over charges of receiving funds from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The decision was made by judge Datuk Nordin Hassan in his chambers yesterday after hearing arguments by both parties on the application filed by 34 individuals as applicants against the MACC chief commissioner and MACC as respondents.

Counsel Mohamed Shahrul Fazli Kamarulzaman, who represented all applicants, told reporters that the court dismissed the application without order to cost.

"The judge found the action of the respondent (MACC) in issuing the compound notices was part and parcel of criminal proceedings and as such it could not be reviewed by the court," he said.

Mohamed Shahrul Fazli said some of the 34 applicants might appeal the decision.

Senior federal counsel Ahmad Hanir Hambaly acted on behalf of MACC chief commissioner and MACC.

Shahrir, Ahmad Maslan and Umno supreme council member Datuk Mohd Sumali Reduan, as well as 31 other individuals, filed the judicial review application separately in November and December last year.

In the application, all applicants sought to declare the decision and action of the two respondents in compounding them via the Offer to Compound Offence dated Oct 7, 2019, as ultra vires, invalid, cancelled and could not be enforced.

The applicants also sought to cancel the decision and action of the second respondent in compounding them, apart from applying for an order to prevent MACC from enforcing the compound or continue their prosecution against them.

Also being sought was a declaration that the statement of the first respondent (MACC chief commissioner) during a media conference on the decision to issue the compound notice against the three applicants was to recover 1MDB funds said to be belonging to the people as premature, wrongly conceived and abuse of the civil service.

On Oct 7 last year, MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya, in a media conference, said MACC had issued compound notices to 80 individuals and entities for receiving RM420mil believed to be from 1MDB.

Latheefa said nine individuals and 71 entities comprising 23 companies, 43 political organisations and five foundations received cheques involving the personal account of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

21. RM32mil ended up in Najib's accounts



Day in court: Rosman arriving to give his statement at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur.

KUALA LUMPUR: Some RM170mil were banked into the account of Putra Perdana Constructions (PPC) Sdn Bhd as an "advance" for a contract and from that amount, RM32mil ended up in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts, the High Court heard.

Datuk Rosman Abdullah, 53, who is the group managing director of Putrajaya Perdana Bhd (PPB) that owns PPC, testified that the monies were transferred into its subsidiary company's bank account in three tranches - RM35mil on July 8, 2014, RM105mil on July 14, 2014, and RM30mil on Aug 8, 2014 - on the instructions of fugitive financier Low Taek Jho.

"I was initially told by Low that the RM170mil was an advance for a contract he was negotiating to be entered into by PPC," he said.

Out of the RM170mil, RM27mil was banked into Najib's AmBank account ending 880 on July 8, 2014 and RM5mil into his account ending 906 on Sept 10, 2014.

Rosman, however, said he did not know that the accounts belonged to Najib.

"I was shocked when my attention later was drawn to certain Internet publications which alleged that the accounts belonged to Najib.

"When I was remanded by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in July 2015, the investigators also told me the same thing," he said during examination-in-chief by Najib's lawyer Farhan Read yesterday.

For the record, Rosman is the major shareholder of PPB Group through his wholly-owned company Cendana Destini Sdn Bhd.

The company acquired interest in PPB Group from UBG Bhd (Utama Banking Group), which is owned by Low, for a purchase price of RM240mil.

The sale agreement was in 2012 but the acquisition was only completed on April 13, 2015 after the purchase price of RM240mil was fully paid.

At the time the RM170mil came into PPC, Low was still the beneficial owner of PPB Group.

"I did not think I had a say in this as long as there was no eventual liability to the PPB Group when my buy-out was concluded," said Rosman.

The witness said there was no agreement to advance monies to Najib at any time and he had never consented to such action.

Rosman was arrested by the MACC on July 24, 2015 and remanded for four days before he was released.

He said prior to his arrest, Low came across as a competent and trustworthy businessman.

"We developed what seemed to me at that time to be a cordial professional relationship. I thought of him also as a micro manager.

"Subsequent to my arrest and remand, and now having what seems to be a clear picture of what happened in the RM170mil transfers episode, I would describe him as a highly smooth and effective scammer in so far as these transactions are concerned," he said.

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.