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1. Ex-MIC legal advisor was present during MACC's interview of Jho Low's associate in Riyadh, officer tells court



KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigating officer told the High Court that former MIC legal advisor Datuk Selva Mookiah was also in Riyadh in November 2015 when the commission carried out its investigation into 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) in Saudi Arabia.

Asst Comm Mohd Nasharudin Amir (*pic*), 48, who was investigating the 1MDB scandal, said the trip to the capital of gulf nation on Nov 29, 2015, was to interview a Saudi prince, Prince Saud Abdulaziz.

The witness was under cross-examination by lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial on Tuesday (March 3), where former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is accused of misappropriating RM42mil in SRC's funds.

Nasharudin said while in Riyadh, the MACC also took the statement of Eric Tan, a known associate of fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low.

Sithambaram: In what capacity was Selva there? Who was he representing?

Nasharudin: I am not sure about his assignment in Riyadh. I only know that he is a lawyer and he was there at that time.

Sithambaram: Did Selva tell you that he was a lawyer representing Tan at any time he was there?

Nasharudin: No.

Meanwhile, MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya who was subpoenaed two days ago was present in court.

The defence witness however asked to be excused from the proceedings of the day, saying she had to attend an important meeting with other heads of agencies.

She told the judge that she would return on Thursday to testify.

Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali allowed the request.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Muhammad Abdullah also informed the court that the defence had subpoenaed former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and Najib's former principal private secretary Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh.

He said there was a probability that the two would be called to the stand after Latheefa testifies.

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.

2. SRC trial: We were not allowed to be near the Saudi prince, witness tells court

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) senior officer told the High Court that there were protocols to adhere to when it comes to the Saudi royal family, rendering them to be cautious in their conduct during an investigation with the royals.

Senior Asst Comm Fikri Ab Rahim, 45, who was heading the money laundering department during the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) investigation in 2015, said the officers could not simply ask questions to Prince Saud Abdulaziz.

"We were not allowed to be near the prince," he said at the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial here on Wednesday (March 4).

The witness was recalling a work trip he took to Riyadh with several other officers; Mohd Nasharudin Amir, Mohd Hafaz Nazar, former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki.

The trip in November, 2015, was to obtain a statement from Prince Saud regarding four letters that were said to be signed by him, claiming of a RM2.6bil donation to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Fikri said during the meeting, they informed the royals of the MACC's intention to verify four letters purportedly issued by Prince Saud and asked for the prince's cooperation to show them his identification before the interview started.

Two other royals were also present, known as Prince Turki and Prince Faisal.

"Azam initiated the talk. We were allowed to look at his (Prince Saud's) identification but could not photocopy it because he has immunity," the witness said during examination-in-chief by lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah.

Fikri noted that an associate of fugitive financier Low Taek Jho (or Jho Low), Eric Tan, was also present during the meeting and appeared to be able to speak to the prince directly.

"It seemed as if he was used to the palace (where the meeting took place). We were quite cautious and worried but he looked at ease compared to us," Fikri added.

The witness said a translator Muhammad Abdullah Al Koman had signed the statement by Prince Saud.

Shafee: Why didn't the prince himself sign?

Fikri: They say they have immunity. We could not record their statements as we please.

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 Wednesday afternoon.

3. Ex-MIC legal adviser 'met Saudi prince'

KUALA LUMPUR: Former MIC legal adviser Datuk Selva Mookiah was also in Riyadh in Nov 2015 when the anti-graft body carried out investigations on 1Malaysia Development Bhd in the gulf country, the High Court heard.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission investigating officer Mohd Nasharudin Amir said the trip to the capital of Saudi Arabia on Nov 29, 2015, was to interview Saudi royal Prince Saud Abdulaziz.

The witness said this during a cross-examination by lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram in the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial where former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was accused of misappropriating RM42mil in SRC's funds.

Nasharudin, 48, said while in Riyadh, they also took the statement of Eric Tan, a known associate of fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low.

Sithambaram: In what capacity was Selva there? Who was he representing?

Nasharudin: I am not sure about his assignment in Riyadh. I only know that he is a lawyer and he was there at that time.

Sithambaram: Did Selva tell you that he was a lawyer representing Tan at any time he was there?

Nasharudin: No.

Separately, MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya, who was supposed to take the stand as a witness, told the judge that she had to attend an important meeting with other heads of agencies.

Latheefa asked to be excused from the proceedings for the day and that she would return tomorrow to testify.

Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali allowed her request.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah also informed the court that the defence had subpoenaed former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and Najib's former principal private secretary Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh.

He said there was a probability that both men would be called to the stand after Latheefa.

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

4. MACC to investigate Ku Nan after his RM1bil asset disclosure



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Latheefa Koya (*pic*) has ordered an investigation into former Federal Territories minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor after he disclosed that he had almost RM1bil in assets in the High Court here on Wednesday (March 4).

Latheefa said Tengku Adnan's revelation during his defence in the corruption trial against him was a "serious" matter.

"Our issue is not about the disclosure of the assets but how he obtained those assets," she said when met by the media after testifying in the SRC International Sdn Bhd case involving former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak here Thursday (March 5).

On Wednesday, Tengku Adnan when taking the stand to defend against allegations of receiving RM2mil in bribes from businessman Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong, said that he had declared assets worth almost RM1bil to three previous prime ministers when he joined the Cabinet since 2001.

He confirmed that he had declared assets totalling RM938,643,566.16 to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2001; RM711,325,822 to Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2006; and RM691,770,649 and RM782,748,061 to Najib in 2013 and 2016, respectively.

Latheefa, meanwhile, declined to comment on speculation that she had resigned as MACC chief commissioner.

5. 'Saudi prince had immunity during 1MDB investigation'



Fikri: Prince Saud's MACC statement was signed by his lawyer instead.

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court was told that a Saudi prince did not sign a statement to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) during the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) investigation because he had "immunity".

The statement by Prince Saud Abdulaziz, who was said to be behind letters claiming a RM2.6bil donation to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, was signed by his lawyer Muhammad Abdullah Al Koman instead.

Senior Asst Comm Fikri Ab Rahim, 45, said this during an examination-in-chief by lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah at the SRC International trial here yesterday.

Shafee: Why didn't the prince himself sign?

Fikri: They say they have immunity. We could not record their statements as we pleased.

The witness, who was heading the money laundering department during the 1MDB investigation in 2015, was recalling a work trip to Riyadh with several other officers - Mohd Nasharudin Amir, Mohd Hafaz Nazar, former MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Azam Baki.

The trip in November 2015 was to obtain the prince's statement on four letters regarding the RM2.6bil donation.

During the meeting, Fikri said they informed the royals of MACC's intention to verify the letters purportedly issued by Prince Saud and asked for the prince's cooperation to show them his identification before

the interview started.

Two other royals, known as Prince Turki and Prince Faisal, were also present.

"Azam initiated the talk. We were allowed to look at his (Prince Saud's) identification but could not photocopy it because he has immunity, " he said.

Fikri said there were protocols to adhere to with the royal family, rendering them to be cautious in their conduct.

The officers could not simply ask questions directly to the prince or be near him.

Fikri noted that Eric Tan, an associate of fugitive financier Low Taek Jho - also known as Jho Low - was also present during the meeting and appeared to be able to speak to the prince directly.

"It seemed that he was used to the palace (where the meeting took place). We were quite cautious and worried, but he looked at ease compared to us, " Fikri 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.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali today.

MACC chief commissioner Latheefa Koya is expected to take the stand.

6. Najib: Tengku Adnan became rich in the 1990s



PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (*pic*) acquired wealth as he held shares in various companies back in the 1990s, says former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Najib said the former federal territories minister acquired his wealth as a business partner to Tan Sri Vincent Tan.

He added that Tengku Adnan also held shares in news publishing and telecommunications companies.

Najib shared this information via an excerpt of "Malaysia's political economy: Politics, patronage and profits" by economist Edmund Terence Gomez.

"In the early 1990s, the Malaysian stock market was bullish.

"It was then when he acquired his wealth," he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

Najib said during that period, the prime minister was Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad while the finance minister was the "future prime minister", alluding to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"That is why there is a need to ask both of them if you want to know how did Tengku Adnan become wealthy.

"When he was rich with an asset of almost RM1bil, Tengku Adnan only then was elected as a deputy minister from 2001 by the fourth prime minister," he said.

Tengku Adnan, who is Umno treasurer, was charged with accepting RM2mil from businessman Tan Sri Chai Kin Kong.

His defence team is trying to prove that he did not need a bribe as he was already wealthy.

7. Rosmah's trial: Mahdzir sent letter to Najib on interim payment, witness tells court

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): At the corruption trial of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor in the High Court here Tuesday (March 11), a witness testified that former Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid had himself sent a letter to then prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, seeking an exemption concerning certain documents that would allow the ministry to make an interim payment to Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Kamarudin Abdullah, 61, the 10th witness for the prosecution and the former Procurement and Asset Management Division secretary at the ministry told the court this, explaining that the letter, dated July 19, 2017, bearing the ministry's letterhead, was sent to Najib who was also the Finance Minister at the time, and that it was not sent through Kamarudin.

According to Kamarudin, the interim payment was to enable Jepak Holdings to supply diesel to rural schools in Sarawak, and if the payment was not made, the schools would be in darkness.

"I was only involved when the interim payment of about RM60mil-RM70mil was made (to Jepak Holdings)," he said during cross-examination by Rosmah's lawyer Azrul Zulkifli Stork.

Rosmah, 68, the wife of the former prime minister, is on trial for soliciting RM187.5mil from Jepak Holdings to secure a RM1.25bil hybrid solar contract to supply energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

She also faces two charges of receiving RM6.5mil in bribes from Jepak Holdings managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin, through her assistant at the time, Datuk Rizal Mansor.

Rosmah is charged with committing the offences at three separate places, namely Lygon Cafe, Sunway Putra Mall, Jalan Putra here; her residence at Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta here; and the Seri Perdana Residence, Persiaran Seri Perdana, Precinct 10, Putrajaya, between January 2016 and Sept 7, 2017.

In his previous court testimony, Mahdzir had said that he had instructed an officer at the ministry to prepare the letter in response to a request from Rizal as Jepak Holdings was facing problems in securing payment for works related to diesel generator sets, undertaken since January 2017.

Kamarudin, who was testifying on the 12th day of the trial, was also questioned by Azrul about Mahdzir's action in ordering the removal of a clause in the letter of acceptance (SST) concerning the hybrid solar project. The witness replied that changes to the clauses could only be undertaken on the instruction of the Finance Ministry.

Azrul: Do you agree or disagree that there was no instruction from the Finance Ministry (to make a change to the clauses)?

Kamarudin: There was none.

In previous court testimony, Mahdzir had said that he had agreed to remove a clause from the letter of acceptance after receiving a call from Rizal on behalf of Rosmah on Nov 10, 2016.

Mahdzir, the prosecution's fifth witness, had told the court that the clause related to the ministry's right to terminate the contract and reduce the number of schools involved in the hybrid solar project, in the event that the schools were connected to an electrical grid.

8. Rosmah trial: RM6.5mil cash withdrawn from Saidi's bank account, witness tells court

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): An assistant bank manager told the High Court here Tuesday (March 10) that Jepak Holdings Sdn Bhd managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin withdrew RM6.5mil in cash from his bank account in two separate transactions made in 2016 and 2017.

Low Ai Lin, 52, who has been working at Maybank's Medan Tuanku branch here since 1992, said a cash withdrawal of RM5mil was made from Saidi's Maybank Islamic account on Dec 20, 2016.

"I confirm that the cash withdrawal was made through a cheque numbered 198979 and I also confirm that the transaction was made at the Maybank branch counter," she said, when reading from her statement on the 12th day of the corruption trial of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, the wife of former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, concerning a hybrid solar project in Sarawak.

The 11th witness for the prosecution also confirmed that another cash withdrawal of RM1.5mil was made from the same account through a cheque numbered 169589, on Sept 7, 2017.

Low confirmed that RM6mil was deposited into Saidi's bank account through a local bank transfer on Dec 20, 2016 before the RM5mil was withdrawn from the same account on the same day.

The witness told Deputy Public Prosecutor Najwa Bistamam that the note concerning the deposit, read as "Credit Inward RENTAS Jepak Holdings Sdn*R161220809450S Trsf".

Low also confirmed that the Maybank Islamic account belonging to Saidi was very active.

"The account statement is an appropriate document that reflects credit and debit transactions for the account.

"Based on the statement for the account, I confirm that the starting balance in the account was RM626,952.81," she said, adding that upon conducting a check through the Maybank system on July 18, 2018, she found that the final balance in Saidi's account was RM416.26.

When testifying about the opening of Saidi's account which was a personal account, Low said it had been opened at the Medan Tuanku branch on March 27, 2009.

She however did not know which bank officer had attended to the opening of the account as the signature of the relevant officer was not in place.

Low went on to explain that normally, the bank officer handling the matter would sign the form required for the opening of an account.

Rosmah, 68, is on trial for soliciting RM187.5mil from Jepak Holdings to secure a RM1.25bil hybrid solar contract to supply energy to 369 rural schools in Sarawak.

She also faces two charges of receiving RM6.5mil in bribes from Jepak Holdings managing director Saidi Abang Samsudin, through her assistant at the time, Datuk Rizal Mansor.

She is charged with committing the offences at three separate places, namely Lygon Cafe, Sunway Putra Mall, Jalan Putra here; her residence at Jalan Langgak Duta, Taman Duta here; and the Seri Perdana Residence, Persiaran Seri Perdana, Precinct 10, Putrajaya, between January 2016 and Sept 7, 2017.

9. MACC could not find evidence that Najib knew about SRC money in his account, Dzulkifli tells court



KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court heard that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had suggested for Datuk Seri Najib Razak to be charged under Section 403 of the Penal Code over the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal but it did not materialise as there was insufficient evidence to back up the case.

Former chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad (pic) testified that the MACC also suggested an alternative charge under Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009.

Section 403 of the Penal Code touches on offences of criminal misappropriation of property while Section 23 of the MACC Act is on abuse of power.

"The MACC was of the opinion that there was no case of criminal breach of trust," Dzulkifli said when examined by lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah at the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial here Tuesday (March 10).

The witness, however, said former attorney general Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali told the MACC to continue its investigation.

"Apandi thought there were two important elements for further investigation; whether Najib had knowledge that the money that went into his account was SRC International money and whether he had instructed anybody to move the money into his account," Dzulkifli said.

The witness told the court that the MACC did continue the investigation upon Apandi's direction.

"However, the MACC could not answer the questions (relating to the two elements that were raised) and informed (the Attorney General's Chambers) that there were no statements to show Najib gave the directive to move monies into his account, " he said.

The witness said the investigation papers (IPs) were pushed back to the AGC and it was up to the AG to decide.

Shafee: What happened after the AG got the IPs?

Dzul kifli: It was decided as an "NFA" (No Further Action).

Shafee: For which case?

Dzul kifli: For both SRC International and 1MDB.

The witness said it was particularly important to be able to prove the element of knowledge as required under Section 403 of the Penal Code.

"MACC itself made a statement that the RM2.6bil was a donation. I was together with the MACC team that went to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to verify the four letters by Prince Saud Abdulaziz who confirmed the donation.

"So the donation issue, for me, was a done deal, " he added.

Dzul kifli was part of the team that went to Riyadh to record the statement of Prince Saud on Nov 29,2015.

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 before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali continues on Wednesday (March 11).

The same witness is expected to be cross-examined by lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram.

10. Govt approves increased RM200mil allocation for Jernih Dam project



An April 1, 2016, file picture of the Durian Tunggal dam in Melaka.

ALOR GAJAH (Bernama): The Federal Government has approved an allocation of about RM200mil - an increase of RM36mil - for the construction of the Jernih Dam here to solve Melaka's water supply problem.

Chief Minister Datuk Sulaiman Md Ali said the previous Economic Affairs Ministry had approved the allocation in a letter dated Feb 14.

The Jernih Dam project was put off in 2018 but had been rejuvenated to avoid a water calamity. Melaka required the additional fund, apart from an initial amount which had been earlier approved by the federal government for the project, due to hike in costs.

"The approved amount includes the scopes for the constructions of the structure of the dam, control tower, spillway and Tenaga Nasional Berhad Station, water catchment pond and access road.

"We hope that the construction of the dam which has a capacity of 13,000 million litres of water will support the need of the population growth until 2030," he told a press conference after reviewing the water situation at the Durian Tunggal Dam here Wednesday (March 11).

Earlier, he and Syarikat Air Melaka Berhad (SAMB) acting chief executive officer, Zainal Abidin Ab Rahman, visited the Jus Dam in Jasin.

Sulaiman said the Water, Land and Natural Resources' Ministry water supply division was expected to issue the tender for the Jernih Dam project by April. The project is expected to be completed in 30 months.

To date, he said the Durian Tunggal Dam only had 16.1% (4,970 million litres), Jus Dam had 24.2% (10,475 million litres) and the Asahan Dam had 68.9% (480 million litres) of water left.

Previously, the water supply rationing in Melaka was implemented for the first two weeks starting from Jan 29, involving 550,673 people, namely, 62.8% of the population and continued for the second phase on Feb 10 involving hospitals, industrial areas and tourism centres.

Water rationing continued in the third phase starting yesterday as water levels at the three main dams had yet to record improvements to ensure adequate water supply to withstand the hot dry weather.

Melaka, currently, has three dams, the Durian Tunggal Dam here and the Jus and Asahan Dams in Jasin.

11. Najib SRC case: Money banked into account not an offence unless bad intent present, witness tells court

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court heard that an inflow of money into the private account of Datuk Seri Najib Razak was not necessarily an offence unless the transaction was done with bad intent and knowledge.

Former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad, 52, however, said it would be an offence if the money was spent regardless of intent or knowledge.

"An inflow of money is not necessarily an offence unless it was committed with knowledge and bad intent (mala fide) but if the person spent the money, that would be an offence," he said at the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial here Wednesday (March 11).

The witness, who was under re-examination by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, also said the MACC suggested for SRC International CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, SRC International director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin and two other directors to be charged for criminal breach of trust under Section 409 of the Penal Code.

Dzulkifli said he could not remember the two directors and did not know the outcome of the suggestion.

The court had previously heard that Najib did not know money that was banked into his account between 2014 and 2015 came from SRC International, which was a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), and that he had spent the funds for corporate social responsibility programs.

Meanwhile, the 19th and final witness Asst Comm Regjit Singh from the MACC told the court that he and his team recorded statements from Nik Faisal twice in October 2015.

He said Nik Faisal was accompanied by his lawyer, Datuk Selva Mookiah, during the recording which took place at a hotel in Jakarta on two separate occasions.

12. SRC trial sees testimony of last witness



KUALA LUMPUR: The SRC International Sdn Bhd trial, in which Datuk Seri Najib Razak is accused of misappropriating RM42mil of the company's funds, has concluded after the final witness was called to the stand.

Lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah informed High Court judge Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali that defence was closing its case after the testimony of final witness Asst Comm Regjit Singh from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"We have come to the end of our case," Shafee said here on Wednesday (March 11).

Justice Nazlan fixed a four-day oral submission on May 12,13,15 and 18.

He also ordered parties to file in their written submissions by April 21 and their replies by May 5.

The defence trial, which started on Dec 3 last year, lasted 33 days with 19 witnesses taking the stand.

Najib, 67, was the first witness to testify in the defence trial.

Other high profile witnesses were former foreign minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, former minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, former attorney general Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali and former MACC chief commissioners Tan Sri Dzulkifli Ahmad and Latheefa Koya.

A total of 807 exhibits were tendered in court.

The prosecution had earlier called 57 witnesses to the stand.

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.

13. Najib SRC case: Money banked into account not an offence unless bad intent present, witness tells court

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The witness, who was under re-examination by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, also said the MACC suggested for SRC International CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, SRC International director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin and two other directors to be charged for criminal breach of trust under Section 409 of the Penal Code.

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Meanwhile, the 19th and final witness Asst Comm Regjit Singh from the MACC told the court that he and his team recorded statements from Nik Faisal twice in October 2015.

He said Nik Faisal was accompanied by his lawyer, Datuk Selva Mookiah, during the recording which took place at a hotel in Jakarta on two separate occasions.

14. Ex-MACC chief: Inflow of money not strictly an offence



KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Mac -- Bekas Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) Tan Sri Dzulkipli Ahmad yang merupakan saksi pembelaan ke-17 hadir memberi keterangan pada hari ke-91 perbicaraan kes bekas Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yang didakwa menyalahgunakan RM42 juta dana SRC International Sdn Bhd di Mahkamah Tinggi hari ini. -

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Former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Dzulkipli Ahmad, 52, however said that it would be an offence if the money in question was spent.

"An inflow of money is not necessarily an offence unless it was committed with knowledge and bad intent (mala fide).

"But if the person spent the money, that would be an offence," he said at the SRC International Sdn Bhd trial here yesterday.

The witness, who was under re-examination by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, also said that the MACC suggested for SRC International CEO Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, SRC International director Datuk Suboh Md Yassin and two other directors to be charged for criminal breach of trust under Section 409 of the Penal Code.

Dzulkifli said that he could not remember the two directors and did not know the outcome of the suggestion.

The court had previously heard that Najib did not know that money which was banked into his account between 2014 and 2015 came from SRC International - a subsidiary of 1Malaysia Development Bhd and that he had spent the funds on corporate social responsibility programmes.

Meanwhile, the 19th and final witness Asst Comm Regjit Singh from the MACC told the court that he and his team recorded statements from Nik Faisal twice in October 2015.

He said that Nik Faisal was accompanied by his lawyer, Datuk Selva Mookiah, during the statement recordings, which took place at a hotel in Jakarta on two separate occasions.

15. Najib's SRC trial ends, MACC officer is final witness

KUALA LUMPUR: The SRC International Sdn Bhd trial involving former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has concluded with the final witness taking the stand.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah informed High Court judge Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali that the defence was closing its case after the testimony of Asst Comm Regjit Singh from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

"We have come to the end of our case," Shafee said yesterday.

Justice Nazlan then fixed a four-day oral submission on May 12,13,15 and 18.

He also ordered parties to file in their written submissions by April 21 and their replies by May 5.

The defence trial, which started on Dec 3 last year, lasted 33 days with 19 witnesses taking the stand.

Najib, 67, was the first witness to testify in his defence trial.

The former premier took to the stand with a 243-page witness statement where he denied knowing the money that came into his account was from SRC International.

Other high-profile witnesses who testified were former foreign minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, former minister at the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, former attorney general Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali and former MACC chief commissioners Tan Sri Dzulkefli Ahmad and Latheefa Koya.

A total of 807 exhibits were tendered in court.

The prosecution had earlier called 57 witnesses to the stand.

On Nov 11 last year, Justice Nazlan ordered for Najib to enter his defence after ruling that the prosecution had proven a prima facie case against him.

The Pekan MP is accused of 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. Najib's 1MDB trial to resume on April 1, if no MCO extension



KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama): The trial of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on corruption and money laundering charges, involving RM2.3bil in 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) funds, will resume on April 1.

Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram, who leads the prosecution team in the trial, told this to Bernama via a short message.

"The trial is set to re-commence on April 1, unless there is an extension of the movement control order (MCO) by the government," said the 76-year-old former Federal Court Judge.

A check at the efs.kehakiman.gov.my website found that the trial before High Court Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah is scheduled at 9am on April 1.

The trial, which was supposed to commence on March 19, was adjourned as all courts across the country have to close from March 18 to March 31 in compliance with the MCO.

The order, which is in force for 14 days from March 18 among others, involves the closure of all government and private premises and all houses of worship and business premises except for those providing essential services. Supermarkets, wet markets, grocery shops and convenience stores selling daily necessities are allowed to remain open.

The government has also called on the public to stay at home and avoid going out during the order period to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

The court had, previously, set March 2-13, 19-20, 23-27 and 30-31; as well as April 1-30; and May 4-8, 11-22 inclusive of Fridays for the 1MDB trial.

The court also fixed the entire month of June, July, August, September and October, including Fridays for the case.

When the hearing resumes, defence lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah is expected to continue with cross-examination of the ninth prosecution witness, former 1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi, who has been on the stand since Sept 23 last year.

Najib, 67, faces four charges of abusing his position to obtain gratification totalling RM2.3bil in 1MDB funds and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same money.