

## **Najib wants to drop 1MDB-related suit, but Pua refuses**

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Former premier Najib Abdul Razak's attempt to withdraw his suit against DAP lawmaker Tony Pua hit an unprecedented brick wall this morning.

This is because Pua rejected the move, said former premier's lawyer Mohd Hafarizam Harun after case management before Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Justice Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab.

The DAP lawmaker's decision is based on the Federal Court granting him leave to challenge an earlier judgment rejecting his appeal as well as an injunction granted against him after the Court of Appeal took judicial notice that Najib did nothing wrong in relation to 1MDB.

"Following this, the High Court has fixed July 26 for submissions on whether this can be done," said Hafarizam.

Pua's lawyer Tan Cheng Leong later confirmed that the matter would be heard on the abovementioned date.

Najib filed the suit against Pua on April 6 last year.

This was the former premier's second suit against the DAP lawmaker following the latter's comment that the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 or Act 355 was to divert attention from the 1MDB scandal.

On Aug 4, 2017, Najib obtained an interim injunction to stop Pua from repeating those words pending the disposal of the suit

Pua had failed to challenge the injunction at the Court of Appeal after the court took judicial notice of then attorney-general Mohd Apandi Ali's statement that Najib had been cleared of wrongdoing in the 1MDB scandal.

The judicial notice meant that the court accepted as common knowledge that Najib was innocent. This could have implications if the present administration decides to press charges against him.

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