

## **SRC's US\$1.18b suit vs Najib: Trial set for Feb-March 2023**

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SRC International Sdn Bhd's US\$1.18 billion civil suit against former Prime Minister Najib Razak has been set for a 16-day hearing beginning Feb 13 next year.

The dates were fixed by High Court Deputy Registrar Suriani Ujang during online case management in Kuala Lumpur today, which was attended by Najib's lawyer Wan Mohammad Arfan Wan Othman, as well as Lisa Yong representing SRC.

The 16 days set by the court are from Feb 13 to 16, 20 to 23, as well as from March 6 to 9, and 13 to 16.

Two days ago, High Court Judge Ahmad Fairuz Zainol Abidin dismissed Najib's application for a stay of hearing of the suit.

The judge said Najib would not be prejudiced if this suit goes on alongside his

appeal in a separate RM42 million SRC International graft case before the Federal Court.

On May 7 last year, SRC under its new management filed legal action against Najib and its former directors - Suboh Md Yassin, Mohammed Azhar Osman Khairuddin, Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, Che Abdullah @ Rashidi Che Omar, Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi, and Tan Sri Ismee Ismail - but later removed the six names from the suit and retained Najib as the sole defendant.

SRC as a plaintiff, in the writ of summons, alleged Najib abused his power and obtained personal benefits from SRC funds as well as misappropriated the funds.

Najib was SRC's emeritus advisor from May 1, 2012, until March 4, 2019.

SRC, which is now wholly owned by the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MoF Inc) is seeking general damages, exemplary, additional and interest, costs, and other appropriate relief provided by the court.

On Dec 7 last year, the Court of Appeal upheld the conviction and 12-year jail term and RM210 million fine on Najib for misappropriating RM42 million in SRC funds after dismissing his appeal against the KL High Court decision on July 28, 2020.

On the same day, Najib filed a notice of appeal to the Federal Court.

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