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PM to address donation issue

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will address the issue of the RM2.6 billion donation that was credited into his account in this Parliament session.

Najib's lawyer, Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun, said it was this reason that he had asked the High Court yesterday to set an early case management for PKR's suit that sought to nullify the 13th General Election (GE13) over alleged abuse of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) monies.

Yesterday, judicial commissioner Datuk Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab set Nov 11 for parties to file affidavits in relation to a bid to strike out PKR's legal action.

The application was filed by Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, and Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, the coalition's secretary-general.

Hafarizam said the move was to avoid a situation where Najib's statements in Parliament over the donation could impact the ongoing legal proceedings and vice versa.

"I do not want what is said in Parliament to be raised in court, and I don't want what is argued here, in court, to have any bearing in Parliament," said Hafarizam at the High Court here yesterday.

He said they wanted all legal issues put to rest when Najib answered the issue in Parliament.

"I want the striking out bid to be

heard first. When Najib answers questions on the matter in Parliament, the legal matter must be free from judicial debate."

Meanwhile, Zaki allowed a bid by Najib and Tengku Adnan yesterday to stay PKR's suit pending disposal of their striking out application.

Zaki ruled there were special circumstances to allow it, as Najib and Tengku Adnan may be prejudiced if the stay was not allowed.

On Aug 12, PKR filed the suit against Najib, Tengku Adnan, 1MDB and the Election Commission over alleged violations of election laws.

Its then de facto leader, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is serving a jail sentence for a sodomy conviction, his daughter, Lembah Pantai member of parliament Nurul Izzah Anwar, Batu member of parliament Tian Chua, former PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Parti Amanah Negara member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad were the named plaintiffs in the suit.

Meanwhile, Najib's lawyers would meet the prime minister to discuss the likelihood of suing former MCA president Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik over an accusation that the former had "taken people's money".

Hafarizam said he would set up an appointment to meet his client for instructions on whether or not to take legal legal action against Dr Ling.