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MACC told to close files

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A-G: Based on facts, I'm satisfied no crime was committed

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PUTRAJAYA: The Attorney-General's Chambers has absolved the Prime Minister of any criminal offence over the RM2.6bil political donation.

It also absolved him of any wrongdoing in the matter of a RM4bil government loan in 2011 to SRC International, a subsidiary of troubled strategic state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohd Apandi Ali then directed the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), which had submitted the investigation papers, to close the files.

He said his office had thoroughly gone through all the witness statements, documents and responses provided by the MACC in the three investigation papers.

"Based on the facts and evidence, I, as the Public Prosecutor, am satisfied that no criminal offence has been committed by the Prime Minister.

"I will return the relevant papers to the MACC today at noon with the instruction to close them," Apandi said yesterday.

Witnessed by the media, he then signed the minuted papers directing the files to be closed.

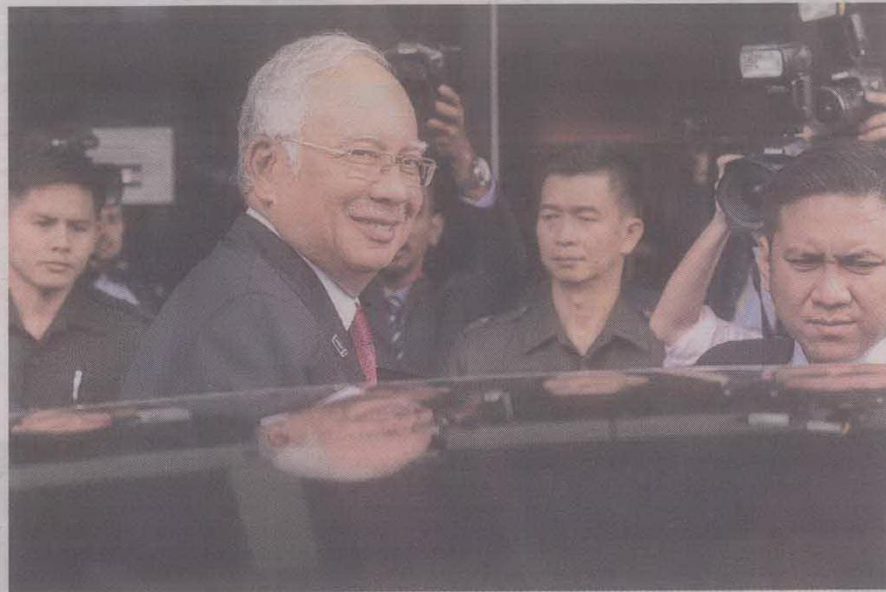
With him were A-G's Chambers' head of prosecution Datin Paduka Zauyah Be T. Loth Khan and National Revenue, Recovery and Enforcement Team chief Datuk Dzulkifli Ahmad.

Presenting the findings, Apandi said documents showed that US\$681mil (RM2.08bil) was transferred to the personal accounts of the Prime Minister between March 22 and April 10, 2013.

He said it was a donation from the Saudi royal family, given to Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak without any consideration.

MACC officers had, during the investigation, met with and recorded statements from witnesses including the donor who confirmed that it was given to Najib personally, he said.

"Evidence obtained does not show that the donation was given as an inducement or reward for doing, or forbearing to do, anything



Moving on: Najib getting into a car after attending a Parliament session in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

Najib welcomes findings

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has welcomed the Attorney-General's findings that no crime was committed, including in relation to the donation from a Saudi royal family.

"He has confirmed what I have maintained all along, that no crime was committed," he said in a statement yesterday.

"This issue has been an unnecessary distraction for the country. Now that the matter has been comprehensively put to rest, it is time for us to unite

and move on."

Najib said he appreciated that political funding was a concern to many, which was why he initiated reform proposals on this in 2010 but was blocked by the Opposition.

"However, I have instructed for them to be put forward again, for discussion," he said.

He would now focus on issues that matter to the country, especially the fight against terrorism and strengthening of the economy in the face of global headwinds, he added.

in relation to his capacity as Prime Minister," said Apandi.

He said the investigation also showed that Najib had given back US\$620mil (RM2.03bil) to the Saudi royal family in August 2013 because the funds had not been put to use.

Apandi also said that there was no need to ask for legal assistance from any foreign states for the purpose of completing the investigation because, "there is no criminal offence committed".

The MACC had earlier asked that

the A-G's Chambers seek such assistance from several overseas financial institutions, to obtain documents and statements for the investigation.

On the SRC International case, Apandi said there was no evidence that Najib had abused his position during a Cabinet meeting that approved a government guarantee on the loan from Retirement Fund Inc, a pension fund.

Also, the Prime Minister had not solicited or was promised any grati-

fication from any party before, during or after the decision was made, he said.

"The investigation did not show any conflict of interest on the part of the Prime Minister," Apandi said.

He said the MACC had admitted that there was no evidence from witnesses to say that corrupt practices had been committed.

"Najib also did not commit any offence under the Penal Code and there is no evidence to show that he knew, was informed of or had approved the transfer of monies from SRC International to his personal accounts," he said.

"Evidence showed that at all material times, the Prime Minister was of the belief that all payments to him were from the donation of the Saudi royal family, that was earlier transferred to his personal accounts."

SRC International was a subsidiary of 1MDB until it was taken over by the Finance Ministry in February 2012 via a non-cash dividend transaction of RM1mil.

It was alleged last year that 1MDB had been used to siphon state funds into the personal accounts of the Prime Minister.

1MDB has dismissed claims of wrongdoing and said that some media reports concerning it appear to be politically motivated.