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NAJIB, IRWAN'S CBT CASE MOVED TO HIGH COURT

Transfer will speed up legal process, says former PM's lawyer

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THE RM6.6 billion criminal breach of trust (CBT) case involving former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and former Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah will be heard at the High Court.

During the case mention yesterday, High Court judicial commissioner Datuk Rozana Ali Yusof allowed an application by Najib's and Irwan's lawyers to have the case transferred from the Ses-

sions Court to the High Court.

In his oral application, senior lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who represented Najib, said the transfer would speed up the legal process.

Lawyer Datuk K. Kumaraendran, who represented Irwan, adopted Shafee's submissions in the transfer application.

The prosecution team, led by deputy public prosecutor Datuk Jamil Aripin, did not object to the application.

Earlier, at the Sessions Court, judge Azman Ahmad fixed Dec 18 for mention of the case for the parties to update the application to have the case transferred to the High Court.

On Oct 25, Najib and Irwan were jointly charged in their capacities as finance minister and Treasury secretary-general respectively with six counts of CBT.

On the first and second counts, Najib, 65, and Irwan, 61, were

charged with committing CBT on a RML.2 billion and RM655 million government property, which were entrusted to them with dominion over it (property).

On the third and fourth counts, they allegedly committed CBT on a RM220 million and RML.3 billion property entrusted to them with dominion over it in the Federal Consolidated Fund.

For the fifth and sixth charges, they allegedly committed CBT on a 1,950,000,000 yuan (RML.26 billion) and RM2 billion government property entrusted to them with dominion over it.

They allegedly committed the offences at the Finance Ministry complex in Putrajaya between Dec 21, 2016 and Dec 18 last year.

The charges, under Section 409 of the Penal Code for CBT by a public servant or agent, carries a maximum 20 years' imprisonment, whipping and a fine upon conviction.

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