

PROSECUTION RETRACTS APOLOGY BID



NAJIB TOLD TO HEED ADVICE ON FB POSTS

Judge warns ex-PM against uploading
postings of trial or risk contempt of court

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak has been warned against uploading postings of his ongoing trial or risk being cited for contempt of court.

The former prime minister was told it was best for him to seek legal advice before posting anything online regarding his case.

High Court judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali dished out the reminder after being informed that the prosecution was retracting its application to compel Najib to

apologise over two of his Facebook postings. Lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram informed the judge about the matter at the tailend of proceedings yesterday.

The deputy public prosecutor did not provide any reasons for the retraction.

Nazlan said he viewed Najib's posting and comments on evidence presented in court as something bordering on contempt before issuing the reminder.

The Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) had last month filed a formal application for Najib to apologise over his Facebook postings on his ongoing trial.

It wanted Najib to personally apologise to the High Court for posting sub-judicial content on his Facebook page at 9.30pm on July 15 and July 17.

The AGC also wanted an order prohibiting Najib from further publishing similar statements in the future.

It was reported that Najib had commented on evidence given in court about his credit card expenses by uploading an explanation on his Facebook page.

As his trial entered the 51st day, final prosecution witness Rosli Hussain from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) was called to the stand.

The investigating officer of the SRC International case testified that the graft busters had seized over 1,000 documents as part of MACC's investigation.



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission officer Rosli Hussain (right) arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday, PIC BY HAFIZ SOHAIMI

He said the documents included those seized from financial institutions, Finance Ministry, the Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP), SRC International and other 1Malaysia Development Bhd-related companies.

The 54-year-old graft buster, who has been with the MACC since 1993, said it started investigating the case after a report was lodged on July 3, 2015.

The report, he said, was lodged by an MACC officer named Prem Raj from the Accounting Forensics Division.

Rosli, who is the 57th prosecution witness, said five witnesses connected to the case had died

since investigations began.

They included the chief private secretary to Najib, Datuk Seri Azlin Alias. The others were Economic Planning Unit director-general Datuk Noriah Ahmad, Penang Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Zainul Abidin Osman, KWAP investment chief Ahmad Norhisham Hassan and Izzad Izzairi Osman.

Rosli will continue his testimony on Tuesday.

Najib, 66, is facing seven charges of money laundering and abuse of power in relation to the RM42 million which was allegedly siphoned out from SRC International.