

Husni: Najib was behind personal attacks on me

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former second finance minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah made an explosive disclosure when he told the High Court that the former prime minister was behind a concerted effort to discredit him, including a purported scandal with a woman.

This, he said, was after he gave a parliamentary speech that touched on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Ahmad Husni, 67, claimed he knew for a fact that Datuk Seri Najib Razak was behind the personal attacks when cross-examined by lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah yesterday.

Muhammad Shafee suggested that the witness had "formed an idea" that Najib was behind the

allegations of the scandal with a woman that resulted in a police report against Ahmad Husni after the speech in Parliament in 2016.

In the speech, Ahmad Husni had questioned a 1MDB-related US\$1bil (RM4.1bil) investment in Aabar Investments PJS Ltd.

"I didn't form an idea. I know he was behind it," he said in court.

The witness said he went home after the speech in Parliament and Najib's principal private secretary Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh came to his house at 10pm.

"He told me that Najib had discussed with someone, I can't mention the name, and had contacted Raja Petra. He said, They will attack you tomorrow'," Ahmad Husni said, referring to blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin.

According to the witness, the first attack was directed at his son Khalid

Ahmad Husni, who attended an economic council meeting.

"Imagine the minutes of the meeting went to Raja Petra. He posted on Facebook that I was angry at Najib because my son did not get a RM2.7bil contract," he said.

Ahmad Husni added that the details of the meeting, which was attended by at least six people including his son, went to Raja Petra just hours after it ended.

He said usually, the minutes would not be distributed on the day of the meeting.

The witness further said the story was published by Umno-controlled *Utusan Malaysia*.

"I sent a message to him (Najib): What is this? He said, 'You discuss with Nazri Aziz,'" he said.

He added that although he did not get to meet Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, who was overseas at that time,

the attacks stopped the next day.

Muhammad Shafee: So you think the attacks stopped because of your conversation with Najib?

Ahmad Husni: Yes.

Asked whether he was upset with Najib, Ahmad Husni said he was not.

"I pray every day - up to today - for Najib's heart to be opened and to see the truth.

"I have never been upset with Najib because to me, he is a human being," he said.

Ahmad Husni, who resigned from his ministerial post in June 2016, retained his Tambun parliamentary seat.

He said he met with Nazri at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur following his resignation.

"Nazri said 'Husni, whatever happens to Najib, it is out of our control'. But the way he said it was

more than that. We want Umno and Barisan Nasional to remain," Ahmad Husni added.

Earlier, he also admitted on the stand that he had lied when he told the press that his resignation was not due to the 1MDB scandal as he wanted to cover for his former boss, Najib.

"I wanted to cover up the real story. I didn't want to tell the true story to the newspapers as they would write all kinds of things.

"I did not tell the truth. I was covering for the prime minister," he said.

Najib, 66, is facing three counts of criminal breach of trust, one count of abusing his position and three counts of money laundering amounting to RM42mil in SRC International funds.

The hearing continues before Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali today.