

'Najib covered tracks after 1MDB scandal broke'

> Prosecution to prove he was aided by businessman Jho Low

KUALA LUMPUR: The prosecution in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) trial will attempt to prove to the High Court that Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and businessman Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low, took steps to cover his tracks after the 1MDB scandal broke in early July 2015.

The biggest trial ever to be held in the country started yesterday with senior deputy public prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram (*pix*) saying "sham" documents were produced to depict a donation from an Arab prince.

"Among these were letters and four cheques, each for a sum of US\$25 million purportedly written out by a person said to be an Arab donor. But these cheques were never meant to be encashed and were never encashed," he told High Court Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah.

"The prosecution will also produce evidence to show that the accused took active steps to evade justice. He interfered with the course of investigation of this case, which has come to be known as the 1MDB scandal.

"He took active steps to effect a cover-up of his criminal acts. The prosecution will rely on all this evidence to show that the accused had the requisite *mens rea* when the offences with which he is charged were committed."

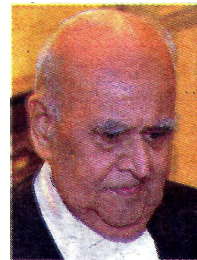
Explaining the case, he said the funds in the case were that of 1MDB which was originally called Terengganu Investment Authority, or TIA.

He said the accused was instrumental in changing its name to 1MDB and also caused amendments to be made to the articles of the company to place himself in sole control of important matters concerning the business and affairs of the company.

"An important character in the charade is a man called Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low. He was involved in TIA and later in 1MDB."

Sri Ram said the prosecution would prove that the accused by his words and conduct made it clear to 1MDB's officers, its board and others that Jho Low was his "alter ego"

Najib, 66, is facing four charges of having used his positions to obtain gratification totalling RM2.3 billion in 1MDB funds and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same funds. - Bernama



Boxes with 1MDB documents being taken to court yesterday.

