

COURTROOM DRAMA

THOMAS, NAJIB IN HEATED EXCHANGE



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MUHD ZAABA ZAKERIA

A-G accuses Najib of not taking steps to recover RM4b loan

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THINGS got heated in the High Court yesterday when Attorney-General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas accused Datuk Seri Najib Razak of doing nothing to recover RM4 billion, which had been squandered by SRC International Sdn Bhd.

The courtroom drama began when Thomas questioned Najib

about the RM4 billion loan to SRC International.

He asked Najib about the firm's financial situation in 2017 and steps taken to address the situation.

Najib, who was finance minister at the time, kept repeating that he had fulfilled his responsibility by asking the management of SRC International to investigate.

Thomas then suggested that the RM4 billion loan had all but disappeared, but Najib disagreed.

When Thomas asked the 66-year-old Pekan member of parliament if he had ever summoned the five SRC International directors to find out what happened to the money, he replied in

the negative.

Thomas: This was not SRC International's money... it was taxpayers' money, but you did nothing to find out what happened?

Najib: SRC International was supposed to do it.

Thomas: So you did nothing... the money is not going to come back from the heavens, Datuk Seri.

Najib: That is not true. I agree that nothing came back, but that does not mean the money is not there.

Thomas: Is SRC International insolvent?

Najib: It has serious cash flow problems, but I disagree that it is insolvent.

Thomas: I put it to you that the

RM4 billion has all but disappeared.

Najib: I disagree

Thomas: The RM4 billion was misspent and has dissipated.

Najib: I disagree... I, too, want to find out the truth.

Earlier, Thomas questioned Najib about his refusal to allow former finance minister II Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah to fly to Switzerland to find out why SRC International's money had been frozen.

Thomas suggested that Najib had prevented Husni from going there because he was afraid that his deputy might find out the real story.

Thomas: You did not want the cover from being blown if Husni

had gone to Switzerland only to find out the truth.

Najib: That is not true... SRC International was already working on it.

The trial will continue next Wednesday before judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

Lead prosecutor Datuk V. Sithambaram is expected to continue with the cross-examination.

Najib is accused of committing three counts of criminal breach of trust and one count of abuse of power involving RM42 million of SRC International funds.

He is facing three money laundering charges over the same fund and faces up to 20 years' jail upon conviction.

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