

Najib charged again with money laundering

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has been charged again with three counts of money laundering amounting to RM47mil.

The former prime minister pleaded not guilty after the charges were read out to him before Sessions Court judge Azman Ahmad.

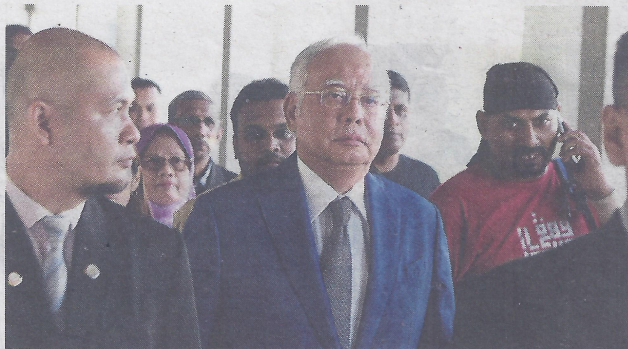
According to the charge sheets, Najib was accused of being involved in money laundering with a total sum of RM47mil, which was a result of illegal activities in his three AmPrivate Banking accounts.

All the offences were allegedly committed at AmIslamic Bank Berhad, Ambank Group Building, No. 55, Jalan Raja Chulan on July 8, 2014.

The charges were framed under Section 4 (1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001, which provides for a maximum fine of RM5mil or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both, upon conviction.

Najib was first charged with the same charges at the High Court on Jan 28 before being given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal.

DPP Manoj Kurup, however, told



Ongoing case: Najib arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court. — Bernama

the court that the prosecution had since applied for the case to be transferred back to the High Court.

He also proposed that the court impose a personal bond on Najib.

The High Court on Jan 28 did not impose bail on Najib after taking into consideration that the three charges were additional charges to the existing ones, he said.

“We also consider that the accused is already facing many charges and has posted over RM6mil bail. We are agreeable to a personal bond,” he said here yesterday.

Senior lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who represented Najib, thanked the prosecution for proposing a personal bond.

He also said he would be raising an objection against the three charges on the grounds that there was a significant defect in the charges.

He said these charges were substantively the same charges that the prosecution bulldozed over to the High Court (on Jan 28).

Muhammad Shafee added that last Thursday, the Attorney-General said he had withdrawn the charges as there was a fundamental error when the case was brought to the High Court before going to the lower court.

The court then allowed for Najib to be released on a personal bond and fixed March 8 for mention.

On Jan 28, Najib had claimed trial

to the same three charges at a High Court.

But in a proceeding on Thursday, High Court judge Justice Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali gave him a discharge not amounting to an acquittal on the three charges after allowing an application by the prosecution.

Attorney-General Tommy Thomas, who led the prosecution on that day, made the application for the discharge on the grounds that the prosecution did not wish to proceed on the three charges against Najib before the High Court and would seek to charge him again at the Sessions Court.

On July 4 last year, Najib was charged with three counts of criminal breach of trust and one charge of abuse of power involving SRC International funds amounting to RM42mil.

Subsequently, Najib was charged with three counts of money laundering involving the same funds on Aug 8 last year.

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