

Najib's appeals to be heard in March

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Appeals Court to hear four applications by ex-PM

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal here yesterday set March 11 and 12 to hear four appeals by former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak to reverse a High Court's ruling over the interlocutory applications in his seven criminal charges relating to SRC International Sdn Bhd funds totalling RM42 million.

Deputy public prosecutor Budiman Lutfi Mohamed said Court of Appeal registrar Datuk

Norsharidah Awang fixed the dates after meeting him, DPP Muhammad Izzat Fauzan and lawyer Harvinderjit Singh, who is acting for Najib, in chambers.

Budiman said Najib's lawyer had informed the court that the defence needed 10 days from the date they received the appeal record on withdrawing a certificate of transfer for them to file the petition of appeal.

"Therefore, the court fixed March 11 and 12 to hear the appeal together with another three appeals by the appellant (Najib).

The court also ordered both parties to file written submissions by March 4 or 5."

Budiman also said Attorney-General Tommy Thomas had written

a letter to the Court of Appeal president on Wednesday to get an early hearing date on the appeals.

On the two days, the Court of Appeal would hear the appeals by Najib on his application for a gag order to prohibit the media from discussing the merits of his criminal cases; his application for the recovery of documents and statements and his challenge on the appointment of lawyer Datuk Sulaiman Abdullah as the lead prosecutor in his seven charges pertaining to SRC International.

All three applications were dismissed by Kuala Lumpur High Court Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali.

The Court of Appeal would also hear Najib's appeal on the withdrawal of a transfer certificate.

Najib filed the appeal to quash Mohd Nazlan's decision on Feb 7, to

allow the prosecution led by Thomas to withdraw the certificate to transfer Najib's case from the sessions court to the High

of the powers by the public prosecutor to transfer a case from the sessions court to the High Court.

He said the prosecution withdrew the certificate to avoid any possible argument that the transfer was a nullity.

Najib subsequently filed the appeal to the Court of Appeal on the same day in a bid to set aside the High Court ruling that allowed the public prosecutor to withdraw the certificate of transfer.

On Feb 7, the Court of Appeal was scheduled to hear the three appeals by Najib. However, the hearing was adjourned as Najib's lawyer had requested the appeal on the withdrawal of the certificate of transfer be heard first. - Bernama

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Court. Thomas informed Mohd Nazlan that the prosecution made the move due to the Federal Court's decisions in the Semenyih Jaya (2017) and M. Indira Gandhi (2018) cases, which raised doubt in respect of the exercise