

# Najib's former PR man charged in absentia

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➤ Paul Stadlen slapped with money laundering charges involving RM15 million

■ BY AMAR SHAH MOHSEN  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Paul Stadlen (*pix*), a British public relations consultant to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, was slapped with money laundering charges in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

A source familiar with the matter told



*theSun*, on condition of anonymity, that the media adviser to the embattled former premier was charged in absentia involving a sum said to be around RM15 million.

Stadlen, who was a former director at Apco Worldwide Malaysia, fled the country after the Najib-led Barisan Nasional (BN) lost the general election on May 9, last year.

Authorities are also seeking an arrest warrant to extradite Stadlen to Malaysia to face trial, the source added.

It is also understood the authorities were tracing another senior lawyer who was involved in the scandal.

Stadlen, who aided Najib in his publicity campaigns, is being sought by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to assist in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad probe, as he is said to be a crucial witness in the case.

Whistleblower website Sarawak Report had also previously reported that Stadlen led the communications operations of the Prime Minister's Office under Najib, and was offered US\$420,000 (RM1.7 million) over a six-month period to advise Najib's administration. Stadlen's whereabouts are unknown.