

# 70 to testify in Najib,

# Irwan Serigar **CBT** case

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➤ Prosecution to hand over all documents to the defence by Feb 15

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** An estimated 70 witnesses will be called by the prosecution in the RM6.6 billion criminal breach of trust (CBT) case involving former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and former Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

Deputy public prosecutor Datuk Jamil Aripin told the court that a list of 138 witnesses had been compiled but later told reporters that around 70 of them would be called to testify based on the circumstances and if there was a need.

Jamil added that all the documents will be given to the defence by Feb 15 in accordance with Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code.

"We have already handed about 70% of the documents to the defence. But we would need about a month to deliver the balance. This is because the documents are still classified under OSA (Official Secrets Act) and would have to be declassified first," he said.

High Court judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali has set two months between July 8 and Aug 22 (not including Fridays) for trial.

Lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who represents Najib, said that while waiting for the documents his team will file an application to recuse Nazlan.

Meanwhile, the sessions court has denied ex-Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng bail pending his extradition to the US to stand trial for three criminal charges related to 1MDB.

The court ruled that there was

insufficient evidence to prove signs of illness he was allegedly suffering from.

"Although the health of the respondent is in the interest of the court, the fact remains, evidence presented to this court was insufficient to show the respondent could not be treated in custody," judge M. Edwin Paramjothy said in his judgment yesterday.

"The matter at hand has engendered much public scrutiny the nature and circumstances of the events on the United States, and the seriousness of the offences charged and the range of possible formalities that the respondent may be facing are among the factors considered by this court."

Last week, Ng's lawyer Datuk Tan Hock Chuan had said Ng's health had deteriorated since he was in custody from Nov 1, 2018.

Ng was hospitalised for five days from Dec 3, 2018, suffering from illnesses like leptospirosis, food poisoning, dengue and viral infection.