

Jho Low 'took care' of Najib's cheques

> 'Incredible for ex-PM to claim ignorance that funds were deposited into his account'

KUALA LUMPUR: Fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low, never utilised any of the funds in Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's three current accounts and deposited funds into the accounts to ensure that Najib's cheques did not bounce, ad-hoc prosecutor Datuk V Sithambaram told the High Court yesterday.

Sithambaram also said the

Blackberry Messenger chats confirm that when funds were needed in the Najib's accounts, steps were taken to deposit sufficient funds.

"Najib cannot claim he had no knowledge of the funds because he was always ready to issue cheques without a second thought.

"The defence submissions that the accused, as the account holder,

assumed there was sufficient funds, is incredible.

"Such an assumption can only be made by the accused if he knew that funds were being pumped into his account, unless of course the accused believed that the money in his personal account grew on trees," Sithambaram said in his submission at the end of the prosecution's case.

The prosecutor also dismissed claims that Najib thought the RM42 million was a donation, because Najib had used part of money to settle an outstanding RM2.33 million that was overdrawn in two of his accounts.

"His claims were not supported by documentary evidence. Bank statements for the 880 account and the 906 account confirm that the accused knew that the RM42 million did not originate from the purported Arab donations," he said.

Sithambaram also stated that if the accused were innocent (of the RM42 million paid into his account), he should have sued the bank for unlawful deposit of the said sum which may well amount to his account being used for money laundering.

"No sitting prime minister would

not make a police report ... upon knowledge about the transfer," he said, adding that Najib's show of "shock" was mere drama as he did not take any legal action on the matter.

The hearing of submissions before judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali will take place today.

Najib faces three counts of criminal breach of trust, one for abusing his position and three for money laundering involving SRC International - Sdn Bhd funds amounting to RM42 million.

The hearing before Justice Mohd Nazlan continues. - Bernama