

NAJIB GAVE NO ORDER TO MAKE POLICE REPORT

Even when rumours swirled over 1MDB, he did not instruct me to lodge a report, says ex-aide

KHAIRAH N. KARIM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

NO reports were lodged with the authorities, including the police, when rumours on the world's biggest financial scandal involving 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) first broke out in 2015. This was revealed in the High Court by key prosecution witness Datuk Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin, who was Datuk Seri Najib Razak's former special officer. Amhari, 43, testified that he had not received instructions from the former prime minister to lodge a police report or to report to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on the embezzlement of the 1MDB funds when it became a "hot issue" in 2015. He said matters relating to 1MDB would usually be a topic brought up in the management meeting at the Prime Minister's

Office (PMO), but it was not discussed in detail.

"For example, issues pertaining to money in PetroSaudi deals, which was said to be misappropriated from 1MDB.

"This includes the extravagant lifestyle of Jho Low (the fugitive businessman linked to the 1MDB scandal) and the movie *Wolf of Wall Street*, which was said to be produced using money from 1MDB," he said.

Under re-examination by lead prosecutor Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram, Amhari was asked to revisit an incident in 2015 when Najib's principal private secretary, the late Datuk Azlin Alias, who was also Amhari's ex-boss, who exclaimed "*Duit 1MDB lah, bro...*" after a meeting. To this, the witness said he interpreted that Azlin's expression referred to the biggest problem, specifically, the misappropriation of money from 1MDB used for the film *Wolf of Wall Street*, produced by Riza Aziz, Najib's stepson, and for PetroSaudi deals.

"It was a tough year for Najib and the PMO because from the

end of 2014 and in 2015, there were a lot of reports, documents, evidence on the embezzlement issue that were brought out and displayed (to the public).

"In 2015, the office was receiving a lot of attacks on the 1MDB issue. We at the PMO decided to defend (Najib) because we believed that it was a conspiracy against the prime minister.

"When Azlin returned from the PMO and said '*Duit 1MDB lah, bro*', there was no hotter issue than the 1MDB funds embezzlement issue, including those surrounding the *Wolf of Wall Street* and PetroSaudi."

Amhari, the eighth witness, who was called to testify on Sept 3, was released from

the witness stand yesterday.

Trial continued before judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah with the next witness, former 1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi.

Najib, 66, is facing four charges of having used his position to obtain gratification totalling RM2.3 billion in 1MDB funds and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same money.



Datuk Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin