

# 'Jho Low was close to Najib, Rosmah'

> Fugitive had private meetings with ex-premier in Langgak Duta residence

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Key prosecution witness, Datuk Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin, told the High Court yesterday that Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low, was familiar with Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and his family long before he knew the fugitive businessman.

Amhari, who was Najib's former special officer, said Low had spoken about his friendship with Najib and his family, and their first meeting in Penang in 2007, before he served the former premier.

"The first time I met Jho Low, he spoke actively about Najib and his family. It reflects that Jho Low has known Najib for a long time," Amhari said when cross-examined by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah on the sixth day of the former premier's 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) trial.

Amhari also said that private meetings had taken place between Najib and Low but he did not know if there were others present during those meetings.

He told the court that at one of the meetings, Najib asked him to go to Abu Dhabi and make sure both countries did not go for arbitration. The meeting was a private one to settle 1MDB's bond dispute with International Petroleum Investment Company in an out-of-court settlement.

**NAJIB'S 1MDB TRIAL**

**THE ACCUSED**  
Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak

**THE CHARGES**  
Four charges of having used his positions to obtain gratification totalling **RM2.28bil in 1MDB funds** and 21 counts of **money laundering** involving the same money. He faces imprisonment of up to **20 years** and a fine of up to **five times the sum or value of the gratification or RM10,000**, whichever is higher, if found guilty.

**THE JUDGE**  
Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah

**THE PROSECUTION TEAM**  
Led by **Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram**

**THE DEFENCE TEAM**  
Led by **Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah**

"When I asked Najib for further instructions, he said: Ask Jho Low," Amhari said but added that instructions for him to go to Abu Dhabi came directly from Najib.

Amhari also agreed with Muhammad Shafee's suggestion that Low did not have any position in 1MDB.

When asked how he knew Low was close to Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosman Mansor, Amhari replied that on several occasions during meetings with Najib's then principal private secretary, the late Datuk Azlin Alias, and Low at Prince Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, he heard Rosmah talking to Low on the phone.

However, he said he did not know the nature of the conversations but had heard Rosmah's voice on the phone. He also said that when Rosmah called, Low would ask the rest to be silent, Bernama reported.

Amhari also told the court that when he met Rosmah, she spoke of Low and that he (Low) was invited to private functions at Najib's



Amhari at the High Court yesterday. -BBXPRESS

residence in Jalan Langgak Duta. The private functions were said to involve VVIPs and politicians.

In reply to Muhammad Shafee's question if it

was from these (events) that Amhari concluded they (Low and Rosmah) were close, Amhari said yes. The trial continues before Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah.