

'It's a loan, not reward from Jho Low'

> Najib's ex-aide says US\$200,000 received was to buy a house in Kota Damansara

KUALA LUMPUR: Former special officer to Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak told the High Court yesterday that fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low, lent him US\$200,000 without any loan agreement to buy a house worth RM1.85 million in Kota Damansara in 2010.

Datuk Amhari Efendi Nazaruddin said the money was transferred to his Maybank account by Low via a company, Alsen Chance Holdings Limited. He (Amhari) said he had approached others for a loan but Low was the only one who agreed.

"I got the loan to temporarily bridge another loan while I tried to sell my old house which was also located in Kota Damansara," Amhari

said when cross-examined by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah on the fifth day of the former premier's 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) corruption trial.

When asked by Muhammad Shafee if he tried to get a loan from Bank Negara Malaysia or other institutions, the witness replied: "I couldn't. I was not eligible".

Amhari, who was a director at ORB Solutions Sdn Bhd and Khazanah Nasional Bhd at the time, was earning about RM75,000 per month.

Meanwhile, when asked if the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) queried him on the amount (US\$200,000) and if it was a subject matter of the investigation, Amhari said he declared it with the MACC and the commission recorded his statement.

Asked whether Amhari had mentioned the money (US\$200,000) in his witness statement, he replied: "No".



Najib arriving at the High Court yesterday. *.BBXPix*

Explaining further about the money he borrowed from Low, the eighth prosecution witness said he never repaid the loan to Low as

he was not able to sell his old house.

"I told him I could transfer the old house to his name.

"However Low said: 'Take your time', Amhari said, adding that Low was a good money lender.

The trial continues today.