

# JUDGE TO DELIVER VERDICT TODAY

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Supporters greet Najib with 'Allah Save You' song on eve of decision

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THE world's eyes will be on the Kuala Lumpur Court Complex in Jalan Duta here today to see if Datuk Seri Najib Razak walks free or faces the consequences of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) corruption scandal, which has hogged headlines all over since the story of how a sovereign wealth fund that spiralled out of control first leaked.

Today, a verdict will be handed down on Najib's first trial over allegations he pocketed some RM42 million of SRC International Bhd's money. He is also accused of abusing his position as prime minister to provide government guarantees for RM4 billion in loans to SRC International from the Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP) in 2011 and 2012.



Supporters waiting for the arrival of Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

Najib faces a maximum of 20 years' jail for each of the three charges of criminal breach of trust, one count of abuse of position, and a maximum of 15 years' jail for each of the three counts of money laundering. He is also liable to be whipped and fined for the offences.

Yesterday, when Najib arrived at the court complex to attend another one of his court cases, he was greeted by a group of sup-

porters singing *Allah Selamatkan Kamu* (Allah save you).

Dressed in a light blue suit, the former prime minister greeted and slowly walked past the group which lined up in two rows on the steps of the court entrance without showing any emotion.

Most of the 50-odd supporters were dressed in Barisan Nasional shirts and said they had come all the way from Terengganu to show their support for the Pekan member of parliament

on the eve of the decision in the SRC International Sdn Bhd case.

Najib, who celebrated his birthday last Thursday by cutting a cake at the entrance of the same court, was charged with abusing RM42 million of SRC International funds on April 3 last year.

If found guilty, Najib is set to be sentenced immediately after High Court judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali hears mitigation from lead defence counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah,

and submissions from lead prosecutor, Datuk V. Sithambaram.

If a jail term is imposed, the defence can apply for a stay pending appeals to the Court of Appeal and Federal Court.

SRC International was a company formed under IMDB but was later placed under the Ministry of Finance Incorporated following Najib's approval.

In the course of the trial, witnesses testified about Najib's role in helping the company secure a RM4 billion loan from KWAP and how money was layered through several other companies before RM42 million eventually ended in his personal bank accounts.

A total of 57 prosecution witnesses and 19 defence witnesses were called in the trial, which took 100 days to complete.

In his opening statement, former attorney-general Tan Sri Tommy Thomas said the SRC International trial was just the first of many kleptocracy, 1MDB-linked prosecutions which Najib would face.

The former Umno president has since been slapped with several other criminal cases — the 1MDB audit-tampering case, income tax evasion, criminal breach of trust charges involving government funds paid to International Petroleum Investment Corporation, and also the 1MDB trial itself.