

Najib: I will accept any decision made by Umno

NST- 29/7/2020 05.5

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak is ready to face any decision by Umno, following the court decision that found him guilty of all seven charges related to the misappropriation of RM42 million of SRC International funds.

The former Umno president said his openness to the outcome was in line with his principle, adding that it showed his faith in the party.

"I have no idea (the decision by Umno), but I am a party member so I will obey the party's decision," Najib said after the court decision.

Earlier, High Court judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali sentenced Najib to 12 years' jail and a RM210 million fine for the abuse of power offence, 10 years each for the three counts of committing criminal breach of trust (CBT) and 10 years each for the three money laundering offences.

It was reported that Umno is expected to make a major political move following Najib's conviction.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he hoped that members of the party would accept the decision and keep an open mind on any pos-

sible outcome.

"Umno will make a big political move based on the (High Court) decision today (yesterday).

"I sympathise and feel sad not only as an Umno president, but more importantly because he (Najib) is my friend.

"As Najib had said, this is not the end of the world. There are other processes after this," he said outside of the courthouse.

The former deputy prime minister said what had been discussed by the party was part of an effort to determine the current government's direction.

Earlier, Najib's lead counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, had pleaded for time to mitigate before the court could hand down its sentence.

He had hoped that the court could adjourn it to Monday, but the court rejected the request.

Yesterday, the Pekan member of parliament became the first former prime minister to be found guilty of criminal charges, namely three counts of CBT, three counts of money laundering and one count of abuse of position.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun said Najib



Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (centre) arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday to give support to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

could still carry out his duties as Pekan MP until the appeal process was completed.

He said Najib could also attend the Dewan Rakyat session, which would last until Aug 27.

"According to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, his status as an MP has not changed until the appeal process is completed."

Article 48 (1) (e) of the Federal

Constitution states that an MP would be disqualified if he is sentenced to more than one year in prison or a fine of more than RM2,000 and does not receive a pardon.