

# Najib granted stay of sentence

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➤ Former PM's bail raised to RM 2 million

**PETALING JAYA:** Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has been granted a stay of execution for his jail sentence of 12 years and RM210 million fine imposed by the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday.

The High Court earlier found the former prime minister guilty on seven cases of criminal breach of trust (CBT), money laundering and abuse of position involving RM42 million in SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

Judge Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali ordered Najib to report to a police station twice a month. His current bail amount of RM1 million was increased by another RM1 million. It has to be paid today.

Najib will only serve 12 years in jail as the judge ordered all the jail sentences to run concurrently.

The Pekan MP was sentenced to 10 years jail on each of the three cases of CBT and each of the three cases of money laundering and 12 years jail and fined RM210 million, in default five years jail, in the case of abuse of position.

Mohd Nazlan meted out the sentences at 6.30pm, after taking into consideration the mitigating factors from the defence, prosecution and the accused, as well as the public interest.

"I have also taken into account all the mitigating factors, including the contribution of the accused for the country," he said.

The court, however, granted Najib's application for a stay of execution of the sentence and fine, pending appeal to the Court of Appeal, and raised the bail amount by another RM1 million and ordered it to be paid today.

Najib left the courtroom at 7.34pm, accompanied by his lawyers.

Earlier, the court dismissed Najib's defence application to postpone the mitigation to Monday.

Mohd Nazlan in his decision said he accepted that there were situations where sentencing can be postponed but the accused must still provide good reasons to justify postponement.

"I do not consider that as justification. The accused still has the right to appeal, as such this

court will proceed to hear mitigation for the accused," he said.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah had earlier cited three cases where the court had postponed the plea mitigation proceedings to another date after convicting the accused.

"This has been done almost all the time at lower courts. The lower court granted the application to adjourn mitigation for parties to make proper mitigation and to enable certain facts to be clarified," said the senior lawyer.

While reading another case, Muhammad Shafee said the sentencing was done on another day and it was a standard procedure.

"In the United States, in a murder case, the sentencing was done on a separate date," he said.

Meanwhile, Najib cited another "sumpah laknat" when making his mitigation in the dock.

He said, as a Muslim, although he has said it in the earlier part of the trial, he reiterated: "Wallahi Wabillahi Wattallahi".

"I did not demand the RM42 million, I did not plan for the RM42 million nor the RM42 million was offered to me. There has been no evidence or witnesses that say so. I have no knowledge of the RM42 million. That is all I have to say," he said.