

NAJIB TOLD CABINET ABOUT 'DONATION'

But he told them Saudi prince requested that contribution to Yayasan 1MDB be kept a secret, says witness

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FORMER prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told his ministers about the alleged donation that he received from Saudi royalty a few months after the inception of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), the High Court heard yesterday.

However, Najib also said the donation, which allegedly came from Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, must be kept discreet as per the latter's request.

Former cabinet deputy secretary-general Tan Sri Mazidah Abdul Majid, 72, said Najib, during a cabinet meeting on Sept 8, 2010, spoke about a donation he received under Yayasan 1MDB.

"Najib said he made formal and informal engagements with the Middle East countries, which gave positive response to matters related to the country's interests.

"He also told his ministers that Prince Sultan, through his foundation, agreed to give more donations to Yayasan 1MDB.

"However, he said the prince requested that his contribution be kept a secret," she said in her witness statement.

Mazidah, who is the 11th prosecution witness, was testifying in Najib's trial involving the misappropriation of RM2.28 billion of 1MDB funds.

She said Najib, who was then also the finance minister, informed everyone that Yayasan 1MDB could create more corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects.

"He said Yayasan 1MDB could engage in more CSR projects with the donation it received.

"He also asked the cabinet to propose their views on CSR projects that could be undertaken in October 2010," she said, adding that Najib asked the government to be more creative in finding other sources of funds to help the people.

On Sept 26, 2019, former 1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halimi testified that he received four cheques amounting to US\$100 mil-

lion, which was allegedly a donation from the Saudi royal family to the Yayasan 1MDB Trust Fund.

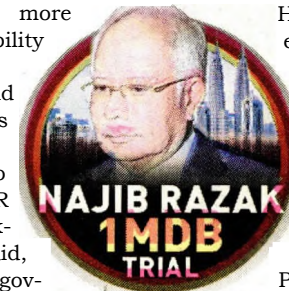
Shahrol said he received the cheques from fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low in September 2010.

However, the cheques were never cashed.

Shahrol also said the cheques were given to him during the time when 1MDB's US\$1 billion stake in a joint venture with PetroSaudi International Ltd (PSI) was being converted into an investment via loans to PSI.

Najib, 66, is facing four charges of having used his position to obtain gratification totalling RM2.3 billion in 1MDB funds and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same money.

The trial continues before High Court judge Colin Lawrence Sequerah today.



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