

'FISHING EXPEDITION'

# NAJIB FAILS TO GET ZETI, GOLDMAN SACHS PAPERS

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Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex yesterday. PIX BY ASWADI ALIAS

The documents, also involving Jho Low, are not relevant to charges, rules judge

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**T**HE High Court yesterday dismissed Datuk Seri Najib Razak's bid to get hold of documents involving United States investment bank Goldman Sachs Group Inc, former Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti

Akhtar Aziz's family and fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, who is also known as Jho Low.

The former prime minister had wanted the prosecution to supply the documents deemed relevant to his trial over the misappropriation of RM2.28 billion of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) funds.

Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah, in dismissing Najib's applications, said the documents the latter had sought were not relevant to the charges he was facing.

On the application for certain bank documents relating to the funds received by Zeti's family,

Sequerah said this amounted to a collateral attack on her as a witness in the case.

Najib's lawyers had argued that the documents were pertinent to establish her credibility as the then BNM governor.

Sequerah said Zeti's integrity and credibility were not an issue in the case.

"The counsel for the accused submitted that Zeti's credibility as BNM governor was compromised.

"However, the prosecution pointed out that Zeti is not the person on trial here, and the application was premature because

she has yet to be called as a witness.

"Therefore, I do not see how these bank documents mentioned in relation to Zeti's family members are relevant to the defence's advance," the judge said.

He added that the documents sought by the defence were not necessary nor desirable for the purposes of the trial.

On the documents related to Goldman Sachs, Sequerah said the application was a "fishing expedition" as the prosecution had made it clear they do not have possession of them.

Najib's 1MDB trial before Sequerah is set to resume on Aug 17.

On March 24, Najib filed for a court order to compel the prosecution to provide several bank-

ing statements involving the accounts of Zeti's family.

These were concerning allegations that the family had received monies from Jho Low.

He filed his second application on April 7, seeking the confidential settlement agreement between the government and Goldman Sachs entered into last year, transcripts or forensic reports from the phones of former Goldman Sachs partner in Asia, Tim Leissner, as well as the latter's communication and data stored in the bank's servers.

Najib, 68, faces four counts of abuse of power and 21 counts of money laundering involving RM2.28 billion from 1MDB.

If convicted, he faces 20 years' jail and a fine.

