

'NAJIB WANTED JHO LOW'S NAME OMITTED'

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He also ordered that sensitive issues not be included in final 1MDB report, says ex-private sec

da Kandasamy over the alleged tampering of the final 1MDB audit report.

He said the instructions were given to him when he met Najib two days after the meeting on the audit report at the office of then chief secretary to the government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa on Feb 24, 2016.

"On Feb 26, 2016, I met Najib at his office and he gave me instructions by saying something like this, 'Shukry, you tell audit to not put in the sensitive and irrelevant issues, including Low's name, in 1MDB report. If this gets to the opposition, there could be an issue."

"I then contacted Saadatul Nafisah Bashir Ahmad (former National Audit Department (NAD) auditor) and conveyed Najib's instructions."

He said in early February 2016, Najib told him to get hold of the 1MDB audit report from NAD and that the report needed to be checked before it went for print.

Shukry said a few days later, he contacted former auditor general Tan Sri Ambrin Buang to relay Najib's instructions and ask the



Datuk Seri Najib Razak's former principal private secretary, Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh, arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

latter to hand over the audit report to him.

"At first, Ambrin was reluctant to give me the report as he said it needed to be printed urgently as it was going to be handed over to the Public Accounts Committee.

"I then told Najib about this and he told me that the 1MDB audit report needed to be checked and the contents of the report as well as what was being reported by NAD must be known."

He said he received a parcel containing the report from Saadatul on Feb 29, 2016, and suggested to Najib to have Arul Kanda take a look at it too, to which Najib agreed.

He said Arul Kanda had then told him that some facts needed to be amended in the report.

"He (Arul Kanda) told me that he met Ambrin regarding the contents of the report and that there were many documents that

were not in 1MDB's possession.

"I suggested to Arul Kanda to discuss this with Ambrin."

Shukry said on Feb 23, 2016, he and Ambrin met Ali and was told that Ali had set a meeting to discuss the audit report the next day.

He said Ali had invited representatives from NAD, 1MDB the Treasury and the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC) to discuss the matter.

During the meeting, Shukry said he informed Ali and Ambrin that 1MDB was a "crisis that needed to be handled immediately".

"What I meant by that was that the company had drawn worldwide attention."

Shukry also testified that during the Feb 24, 2016, meeting, there were discussions on two different versions of financial statements for the year 2014.

In the meeting, he said he

raised that the matter could have an impact on investors' confidence in the company.

"This is because if a government-owned company like 1MDB could be manipulated, it would affect investment sentiments."

He said in the meeting, Ali had instructed Treasury representative Datuk Seri Mohd Isa Hussain to lodge a police report on the two financial statements.

He said at the end of the meeting, Ambrin agreed to remove the part on the financial statement from the report.

Shukry, who ended his contract as the principal private secretary on Sept 30, 2016, also told the court that he was present during the 1MDB audit report coordination meeting that Ali chaired at his office on Feb 24, 2016.

The trial before judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan continues on Oct 20.

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak had ordered that fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho's name, as well as other sensitive issues, be omitted from the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) audit report.

The former prime minister's former principal private secretary, Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh, said Najib had instructed him to do so, so that the then opposition would not make it an "issue".

Shukry, 67, was testifying as the 11th prosecution witness in the trial of Najib and former 1MDB chief executive officer Arul Kan-