

3 JUDGES OKAY NAJIB TRIP

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Ex-PM will leave for Singapore after Melaka polls with all 3 judges agreeing to delayed travel plans



Datuk Seri Najib Razak exiting the High Court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

RAHMAT KHAIRULRIJAL
KUALA LUMPUR
Rahmat@nst.com.my

DATUK Seri Najib Razak has been given the green light to travel to Singapore after the Melaka state elections next month.

This was after three High Court judges here allowed the former prime minister to postpone his travel plans when he applied for the temporary return of his passport yesterday.

On Oct 18, the Court of Appeal approved Najib's application for the temporary return of his passport to enable him to travel to Singapore to visit his daughter Nooryana Najwa.

He was originally scheduled to leave for Singapore on Oct 20 and return by Nov 22.

Najib, through his counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, applied to amend his travel date to Nov 21, and he will return his passport before Dec 6.

Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan allowed the application after

Shafee gave his assurance that the defence would replace the affected dates for the trial.

"We will replace the affected trial dates (Oct 29 and 30) as soon as possible," Shafee said.

Judges Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah and Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin also allowed the application after hearing the same submissions from Shafee.

Meanwhile, deputy public prosecutor Mohd Ashrof Adrin Kamarul said the prosecution did

not object to the application.

Najib, in his supporting affidavit, said he had been tasked to be the "caretaker" for the party during the state elections.

The former Umno president said his successor, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, would be in Germany during the elections for medical treatment.

"I have been entrusted to ensure that Umno will act in an orderly and appropriate manner during the elections.

"I, therefore, need to delay my travel to Singapore to after the elections on Nov 20," he said.

The Pekan member of parliament is on trial for multiple corruption charges involving the 1Malaysia Development Bhd financial scandal, audit report tampering and money laundering.

He was sentenced to 12 years' jail and fined RM210 million after he was found guilty for misappropriation of RM42 million of SRC International Funds.