

AT NAJIB'S RESIDENCE

EX-CFO: KPMG INSISTED ON MEETING NAJIB

Audit firm wanted more info about US\$2.3b overseas investment from ex-PM, says Azmi

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THE High Court yesterday heard how audit firm KPMG had been dissatisfied with the lack of information it received when auditing 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) 2013 accounts that it finally insisted on meeting Datuk Seri Najib Razak to resolve its concerns.

Former 1MDB chief financial

officer Azmi Tahir also disclosed that when Low Taek Jho @ Jho Low was told about this, the fugitive financier pressed to know if the auditors would really sign off on the audit after meeting Najib.

Azmi said the 1MDB financial report for the year ending March 31, 2013 should have been signed off within six months but this did not happen as KPMG was not furnished with enough information about the strategic development firm's US\$2,318 billion overseas investment.

He said the audit firm eventually insisted on meeting with 1MDB's shareholder, namely Najib, who was the then prime minister.

This happened sometime in November 2013, two months after the 1MDB audit was supposed to have been completed.

Azmi said he was surprised that the audit firm insisted on meet-

ing Najib as they wanted to hear from the prime minister himself on 1MDB's investment.

"I then informed Jho Low about KPMG's request to meet Najib.

"He asked me why they wanted to meet the prime minister and kept asking me whether KPMG would really sign off the audit report after meeting Najib.

"He was pressuring me and kept asking 'sure ah', 'sure ah' when I mentioned that KPMG might sign off after meeting Najib."

Azmi said the meeting eventually took place at Najib's residence in Jalan Langgak Duta on Dec 15, 2013. However, it was previously reported that KPMG still refused to sign off on 1MDB's 2013 financial report after meeting Najib and the firm was eventually replaced with Deloitte.

Asked why he had called Jho



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak leaving the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex after the hearing yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAM AD I

Low to arrange the meeting with Najib instead of getting the latter's then principal private secretary Azlin Alias to do so, Azmi said this was because 1MDB management always turned to the entrepreneur when it came to dealing with the then prime minister.

"None of us dealt with the PMO (Prime Minister's Office). It was always through him," he said.

Najib is on trial for 25 charges of abuse of power and money laundering involving 1MDB funds amounting to RM2.28 billion, which was deposited into his personal bank accounts between February 2011 and December 2014.

The hearing before Judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah continues.