

'RM2.28bil was in Najib's accounts'

Witness admits paper trail shows 1MDB funds ended up with former PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: A witness in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) trial at the High Court did an about-turn and agreed that RM2.28bil from the company's coffers went into Datuk Seri Najib Razak's bank accounts when shown the paper trail.

Contrary to his earlier testimony that the former prime minister did not benefit from 1MDB's transactions, its former non-executive director Tan Sri Ismee Ismail had a change of heart after he was shown a flowchart by lead prosecutor

Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram on several monetary transactions that went through layering processes.

Based on the chart, the money ended up in Najib's AmBank accounts ending with the numbers 9694 and 1880.

It was previously shown that both the accounts belonged to Najib.

Sri Ram: Part of the US\$700mil (RM2.95bil at the current exchange rate) went into Najib's account. So, to the suggestion which was put to you (during cross-examination) that he did not receive any benefit from this Islamic Medium Term Notes (IMTN), would you like to review your answer?

Ismee: These documents were not shown to me during the cross-examination. From what I see here, I can see the flow.

Last month, the same witness agreed with the defence's contention that Najib did not receive money originating from the issuance of billions in IMTN bonds in 2009 by 1MDB's predecessor, Terengganu Investment Authority (TIA).

In yesterday's proceedings, Sri Ram took to the task of showing multiple, layered transactions to Ismee through the flow chart.

The witness agreed with the prosecution that a total of RM2.28bil had

ended up in Najib's accounts between 2011 and 2015.

Ismee was also asked about Najib's relationship with Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low, and the witness said he believed the two had a "close relationship".

Sri Ram: It was put to you during cross-examination, that there has been a conspiracy to mislead the board and the accused. Do you have any personal knowledge or any arrangement that Najib may have had with Low as to how the 1MDB money may be shared between them?

Ismee: I don't know.

At the end of the re-examination,

Sri Ram said he would leave the rest of his re-examination for submission.

Najib, 69, is on trial for 25 charges in total - four for abuse of power that allegedly brought him financial benefit to the tune of RM2.28bil, and 21 for money laundering involving the same amount of money.

The hearing before Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah continues on April 18.