

Najib: 1MDB suit an abuse of court process

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has claimed that the US\$8 billion (RM. billion) civil suit filed against him by 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and its four subsidiaries is an abuse of court process as the names of the actual wrongdoers behind the loss suffered by the sovereign wealth fund were removed from its legal action.

The former prime minister said the action by 1MDB and its four subsidiaries caused suspicion and was disingenuous on their part in filing the suit by retaining his name as one of the defendants.

The four subsidiaries are 1MDB Energy Holdings Ltd, 1MDB Energy Ltd, 1MDB Energy (Langat) Ltd, and Global Diversified Investment Company Ltd (formerly known as 1MDB Global Investments Ltd).

"It is apparent from the amended writ of summons that the wrongdoers that were initially named were removed. This casts suspicion and is disingenuous on the part of the plaintiffs filing this suit and amounts to abuse of process," said Najib.

However, Najib, 68, did not state the names of the defendants who he claimed were dropped from the suit.

Najib said this in his statement of defence filed on March 28 in response to the 1MDB civil suit filed against him and seven others over its financial loss due to alleged abuse of power and breach of fiduciary duties.

The Pekan member of Parliament pointed out that the statement of defence was filed without prejudice to his right to file further interlocutory applications, such as to amend the defence or to strike out the entire suit.

"At this juncture, this statement of defence is also filed without prejudice to the first defendant's right to remain silent in relation to the ongoing criminal trial," he said.

The suit is one of 22 civil suits filed to claim over US\$23 billion on behalf of 1MDB and its former subsidiary SRC International Sdn Bhd against several individuals allegedly involved in the financial scandal. - Bernama