

NAJIB'S TESTIMONY IN SHAHRIR'S CASE POSTPONED

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Ex-PM says he can't testify in money-laundering trial without his lawyer being present

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JAILED former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will be a prosecution witness next year.

He will be testifying as the 23rd prosecution witness against veteran Umno man Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad on Jan 5.

Najib, 69, was initially scheduled to testify before High Court judge Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin at the trial yesterday, but he told the court yesterday morning that he was not ready to testify.

He told the judge at the onset of the hearing that he was not ready to give any statement orally without the presence of his lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee-Abdullah, to keep a watching brief in yesterday's proceedings.

"I am requesting to give my statement (as a witness) on Jan 5. My lawyer will be here then," Najib said when he took the witness stand briefly yesterday morning.

Asked by deputy public prosecutor Rasyidah Murni Azmi to



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

explain his lawyer's whereabouts, Najib said Shafee was outstation.

Rasyidah then left it to the judge's discretion to decide on the matter, to which Jamil allowed Najib's request.

The money-laundering trial's proceedings continued with the cross-examination of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's Assistant Superintendent Nurzahidah Yacop, who is the 22nd prosecution witness, by Shahrir's

lawyer, Datuk Syed Faisal Al-Edros Syed Abdullah Al-Edros.

Shahrir, 72, is on trial for failing to declare to the Inland Revenue Board the RM1 million he allegedly received from Najib nine years ago.

He is accused of not stating his actual income in the Income Tax Return Form for Assessment Year 2013, which violates Section 113(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act 1967.

He allegedly committed the offence at the Inland Revenue Board's Jalan Duta branch on April 25, 2014.

The offence falls under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, which carries a maximum fine of RM5 million or up to five years' jail, or both, if convicted.

The trial continues.