

NAJIB TO ENGAGE UK QUEEN'S COUNSEL

Ex-PM's lawyer to inform Federal Court of their intention by today, says DPP

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak will apply for a Queen's Counsel (QC) from the United Kingdom to represent him in the appeal against his conviction and sentence involving SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Ashrof Adrin Kamarul said Najib's lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, planned to write to the Federal Court by today to inform it of their intention.

"The court has fixed Jan 28 for next case management to determine the next step for the appeal. The court also fixed March 15 and 16 to hear Najib's appeal to adduce new evidence."

He said Federal Court registrar Siti Hajar Mustaffa fixed the date during online proceedings yesterday.

On Dec 7 last year, the Court of Appeal dismissed Najib's application to adduce fresh evidence in his appeal against the RM42 million SRC International case.

In rejecting Najib's application, judge Datuk Abdul Karim Abdul Jalil said Najib had failed to cumulatively satisfy the requirements of the law and show any exceptional circumstances on why his application should be allowed.

In his application, Najib said he wanted to call Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)

chief Tan Sri Azam Baki and SRC investigating officer Rosli Hussein to provide new evidence on the case.

He said this was because MACC, on Nov 19, confirmed that RM65 million in 1Malaysia Development Bhd-linked funds were recovered from companies controlled by former Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz and that gave her the motive to conceal information from him.

The next day, the same court upheld the conviction and 12 years' jail term and RM210 million fine on Najib for misappropriating RM42 million in SRC International funds.

The High Court found Najib guilty of all seven charges of criminal breach of trust, power abuse and money laundering in relation to SRC International funds.



*Mohd Ashrof
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