

Bid to seek retrial of case due to judge's conflict of interest

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Razak is seeking a retrial of the SRC International Sdn Bhd case, where he was convicted and sentenced to 12 years' jail and fined RM210 million, after arguing that the High Court judge who heard the case should have disqualified himself.

The former prime minister's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah claimed that the judge, Datuk Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali, was involved in a loan application involving the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) linked company when he was Maybank's company secretary and group general counsel.

"Nazlan was involved in the loan application process.

"He should have disclosed this and should not have heard the case.

"Remember, the earlier judge was removed just because his brother was the chairman of an Umno division," he told reporters here yesterday.

Nazlan was the judge who had heard Najib's SRC trial at the High Court, which started in April 2019 and ended with Najib's guilty verdict in July 2020.

It was reported on Monday that



Datuk Seri Najib Razak (centre) arriving at the Federal Court in Putrajaya yesterday to hear his appeal regarding new evidence to be entered to set aside his conviction in the misappropriation of RM42 million of SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Shafee claimed to have discovered Nazlan's past role in Maybank just a few days ago.

He said a new application would be filed to highlight this to the Federal Court.

Shafee claimed that Nazlan — who is now a Court of Appeal judge — should not have heard the SRC trial, due to the latter's past role as company secretary and group general counsel for

Maybank in 2012 when the bank had lent RM4.17 billion to 1MDB to help finance the company's acquisition of independent power producer Tanjong Energy Holdings Sdn Bhd.

He claimed that Nazlan was the head of Maybank's corporate and legal services department then, and further claimed 1MDB later was unable to repay the loan given by Maybank.