

I was in court, Najib says over bloc vote absence

BARISAN Nasional advisory board chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak denied that he tried to foil a government parliamentary motion by being absent during a bloc voting session at the Dewan Rakyat on Wednesday.

The former prime minister, in a Facebook posting yesterday, described the claim by an opposition member of parliament as an attempt to mislead the people.

"He said the rejection of (the parliamentary motion) to extend (the enforcement of the maximum 28-day detention without trial) under Sosma (Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2021) does not amount to PH (Pakatan Harapan) breaching the MoU (memorandum of understanding) inked with the government.

"Therefore, he accused me of trying to foil the MoU since I was absent during the bloc voting session (at the Dewan Rakyat sitting on Wednesday).

"I was at the court the entire day.

"As if he did not know about it," Najib said in the posting.

Najib was in court to attend

proceedings over his four charges of using his position to obtain bribes totalling RM2.3 billion from 1Malaysia Development Bhd and 21 charges of money-laundering involving the same amount.

Although he did not identify the PH leader who made the claim, Najib's posting was accompanied by a screen grab of a report that quoted Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil, published by a news portal, titled "*Usul kerajaan lulus jika Najib, Zahid hadir semalam — Fahmi*" (The government's parliamentary motion would have passed if Najib and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had been present yesterday — Fahmi).

In the same posting, Najib said Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang were also absent.

"Were they also attempting to foil the MoU so that GE15 (15th General Election) could be called soon?"

It was reported that Hadi tested positive for Covid-19 recently.