

Court sets June 3 for Najib, others bid to stay return of seized assets

THE High Court yesterday set June 3 to hear the prosecution's application to stay the execution of an order for the return of property that were seized from former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak (*picture*), his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, their children and several other individuals.

Deputy public prosecutor Faten Hadni Khairuddin said the application would be heard before Judge Mohamed Zaini Mazlan.

On Nov 8 last year, the High Court had ordered the items not to be forfeited to the government.

The items, including handbags of various brands, 27 vehicles and cash of various currencies, were seized for allegedly linked to the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal.

On the prosecution's appeal at the Court of Appeal against the Nov 8 decision, Faten Hadni said it was at the case management stage as the prosecution was still waiting

for the appeal record.

She said this when contacted by reporters after the case management before Deputy Registrar Catherine Nicholas yesterday.

The prosecution filed the application for stay last Nov 24, by naming Najib, Rosmah, their son Nor Ashman Razak, Riza Shahriz Abdul Aziz (Najib's stepson), Senijauhar Sdn Bhd, Aiman Ruslan, Goh Gaik Ewe, former Goldman Sachs Group Inc bank officer Roger Ng and wife Lim Hwee Bin as the first to ninth respondent, respectively.

The application for the stay was made pending an appeal against the decision in the Court of Appeal which was filed last Nov 16.

In the Nov 8 decision, Judge Mohamed Zain, in dismissing the government's application to forfeit the seized items, had allowed the government's application to forfeit assets from eight other respondents because they did not



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object to the application.

The respondents are Mohd Kyizzad Mesran, Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia, Yayasan Semesta, Yayasan Mustika Kasih, Rembulan Kembara Sdn Bhd and three former 1MDB officers who have absconded, Kee Kok Thiam, Tan Vern Tact and Geh Choh Hun.

On May 8, 2019, the Attorney-

General's Chambers (AGC) had filed a notice of motion to forfeit hundreds of items, allegedly linked to the 1MDB scandal.

Among the items mentioned in the notice are handbags, shoes and watches of various brands, as well as cash in various currencies that were seized by the police on May 17, 2018, and June 11, 2018, as well as 27 vehicles that were seized on Aug 2, 2018, and a piece of land in Tanjung Bungah, Penang.

Also included is more than RM18 million in several bank accounts at Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd, Al-Rajhi Bank Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, CIMB Bank Bhd, RHB Bank Bhd, Public Bank Bhd, AmBank Bhd and Hong Leong Bank Bhd that was frozen between Aug 16, 2018, and March 11, 2019.

However, AGC allowed a representation by Nooryana Najwa for the return of items that belonged to her, which included handbags and shoes. — *Bernama*