

NAJIB MAKES FRESH BID TO QUASH CBT CHARGES

Prosecutor asks court for more time to study ex-PM's application, which is similar to Irwan's

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak has submitted a second representation to the Attorney-General's Chambers for his six criminal breach of trust charges, which he faces with Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah, to be dropped.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Saifuddin Hashim Musaimi told the High Court yesterday that the A-GC had received Najib's application last week.

"The attorney-general needs time to review the application, as it is similar to Irwan's application.

"Thus, we are requesting the court to fix another date for case management regarding this matter," he said before judge Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin.

It is understood that Najib's counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, had made the fresh representation due to several high-level government discussions between Malaysia and Abu Dhabi.

On Feb 27, the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) and Aabar Investments PJS agreed to pay US\$1.8 billion to the Minister of Finance (Incorporated) and 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

This follows a settlement between the parties over their dispute regarding 1MDB.

In April, the prosecution said the A-GC had received a representation letter from Irwan's lawyer, Datuk K. Kumaraendran, in March.

Saifuddin said defence counsel had raised several new developments that the prosecution had to verify before making a decision.

The court yesterday fixed Sept 12 for the next case management.

In March, last year, both accused submitted their first representation to have their charges



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (top) being escorted to the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday for his trial for six criminal breach of trust charges. Najib is jointly charged with former Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah (bottom pic, left). PIX BY BERNAMA AND EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN



dropped. However, the court dismissed the representation.

The two made the application when there were no updates of the proceedings after they were charged three years ago.

However, the court in its ruling said the prosecution in the case was ready with charges, however only the trial date had not been set by the court.

Earlier, Jamil at the outset of proceedings appeared irritated when the parties involved in the case were late.

The case was to start at 9am but was delayed for at least one hour.

"Please come to court on time," he said briefly when proceedings finally began.

Najib and Irwan pleaded not guilty to six charges of CBT totalling RM6.6 billion in government funds involving payments to IPIC.

The duo allegedly committed the offences at the Finance Ministry complex in Putrajaya, between Dec 21, 2016, and Dec 18, 2017.