

'Najib never asked about source of RM2.6 billion'

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz yesterday told the High Court that former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak never made any inquiry about the source of the RM2.6 billion in his account at AmlIslamic Bank Berhad.

She was replying during examination-in-chief by DPP Kamal Bahrin Omar at Najib's trial involving the misappropriation of RM2.3 billion of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) funds, Bernama reported.

Kamal Bahrin: Did Najib at any time inquire about the source of the transaction involving his four accounts?

Zeti: He did not.

Kamal Bahrin: There was RM2.6 billion in Najib's account before the 13th general election. Did BNM or you know (about) the sum (RM2.6

> Central bank required to notify law agencies on irregular or suspicious transactions, says former BNM governor

billion) in his account?

Zeti: The central bank and I, at that material time, did not know (about) the large funds in his account.

The 46th prosecution witness said as per the law, once BNM comes into information for irregular or suspicious transactions, it is required to notify law agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and police.

"BNM is not permitted to inform anyone else, including the account holder."

When questioned by Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee

Abdullah on money that was deposited into her husband Datuk Dr Tawfiq Ayman's company account, Zeti said he alerted Singapore authorities about the dubious funds transferred into the account of Cutting Edge Industries Ltd.

Zeti, 76, said her husband was the one who wrote the letter, so the funds ought to be returned to investors and it came back to Malaysia as a result of his instructions.

Muhammad Shafee then asked if Zeti could produce the letter that she claimed to have sighted, but Zeti

said she is not at liberty to share the letter as the matter was under investigation by police.

Muhammad Shafee: So, you were only told about the letter by your husband?

Zeti: Yes.

Muhammad Shafee then contended that it was hearsay evidence.

After a heated exchange between the two, Zeti reiterated that at no time was any action ever taken against any of her family members for any wrongdoing in Singapore jurisdiction.

Najib, 70, is facing four charges of using his position to obtain bribes totalling RM2.3 billion belonging to 1MDB and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.

The trial before Judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah continues.