

NAJIB APPLIES FOR DNAA IN RM27M SRC CASE

Ex-PM's lawyer tells court that the case has been pending for past five and a half years

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak is seeking the High Court's dismissal of three money laundering charges involving millions of funds belonging to SRC International Bhd, which have been pending for the past five and a half years.

The former prime minister made the request as the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC) had yet to decide on his representation letter for the review of the charges.

Najib sent the letter in July, and the prosecution confirmed receiving it on Aug 2.

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said the court should grant a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA) against his client

under Section of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The senior lawyer said the charges against his client had been "hanging" for five and a half years and had been mentioned several times.

"To avoid prejudicing the prosecution and my client's interest, I requested the court to grant a DNAA against Najib.

"If there are any further developments in the prosecution later, this case can be brought back to resume from where we left off... the case has been hanging for so long," he said.

This prompted High Court judge K. Muniandy to inquire why the prosecution was taking so long in reviewing the representation request.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Ashrof Adrin Kamarul responded that the charges involved a high-profile case involving numerous documents that had to be examined, along with other cases faced by the accused that were still pending and being addressed.

He said both parties had also agreed that these charges would only be heard after the wrap-up of Najib's SRC International Bhd case involving RM42 million.

The case was concluded on March 30 this year.

After that date, we only have three mentions of cases, including today's proceedings.

"We request to be given a little more time to handle the representation," he said.

Muniandy then set Jan 19 next year as the deadline for the A-GC to make its decision on the representation.

On Feb 3, 2019, Najib claimed trial to three charges of money laundering by accepting proceeds from illegal activities amounting to RM27 million through his three AmPrivate Banking accounts.

He allegedly committed the offences at AmIslamic Bank Berhad, AmBank Group Building, No. 55, Jalan Raja Chilian on July 8, 2014, under Section 4 (1) (a) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001.

He faces a maximum fine of RM5 million or imprisonment of up to five years, or both, if convicted.

Najib is serving a 12-year jail sentence in Kajang Prison after the Federal Court had on Aug 23, last year, upheld the conviction and jail term and a fine of RM210 million against him after finding him guilty of misappropriating SRC International Sdn Bhd funds amounting to RM42 million.