

# DPP seeks to amend charges against Najib

## Changes to reduce amount of money involved in 1MDB trial made in good faith, says prosecution

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The prosecution in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) case yesterday applied to the High Court to change the amount of money in three of 25 charges faced by former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, due to the recent testimonies of two witnesses.

The witnesses were Bank Negara Malaysia analyst Adam Ariff Mohd Roslan and Anti-Money Laundering Criminal Investigation Division assistant director ACP Foo Wei Min.

DPP Kamal Baharin Omar said the prosecution proposed to amend one of Najib's four power abuse charges and two of

his 21 money laundering charges.

He said for the power abuse charge, they are seeking to amend the amount from RM49.9 million to RM44.6 million, Bernama reported.

"The prosecution seeks to amend the 10th money laundering charge, in which Najib was accused of transferring money from unlawful activities, by reducing the amount involved from RM652.6 million to RM515.7 million.

"The prosecution also applied to amend the 21st charge involving the transfer of funds, by reducing the amount of RM12.4 million to RM11.4 million."

The prosecutor submitted that the amendments should be allowed under Section 158 of the Criminal Procedure Code as it follows the principles of the law stated.

"The discretion of the public prosecutor to amend charges is unfettered and it can be exercised at any time during the trial.

"We submit that during the course of the trial, the prosecution can amend and lead evidence to the said amendments. In this

case, the amendment is made in good faith.

"The amendment to the charge does not have the effect of changing the nature of the offence or having the effect of opening up a new trial.

"We submit that the amendment will in no way cause any prejudice or disadvantage to the accused as he will be given every opportunity to mount his defence."

Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah objected, saying the defence team will need time to prepare a reply and will argue the matter before the court today.

Judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah then allowed the bid for a hearing of the charge amendment application to resume today and yesterday's proceedings to continue with the hearing of an application dealing with the admissibility of documents.

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.