



The High Court has reminded former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to be fully prepared for the hearing next month. BERNAMA PIC

## CBT TRIAL

# No more delays, Najib warned

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The High Court yesterday reminded Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah to be fully prepared for the hearing next month after being forced to postpone their criminal breach of trust (CBT) trial for the second time on technical issues.

Najib along with former Treasury secretary-general Irwan are on trial on six counts of CBT of over RM6.6 billion of government funds to International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC).

It was set to start before judge Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin.

Earlier, deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Saifuddin Hashim Musaimi told the court that the prosecution had to declassify 48 documents to be served to the defence team.

He said they needed at least a month for the documents to be declassified by officials in the relevant agencies, and added that the defence team had sent an email requesting a postponement of the case.

"These documents need to be downgraded as they are classified under the Official Secrets Act."

Irwan's lawyer Datuk Seri K. Kumaraendran confirmed that he had submitted a letter to the prosecution yesterday to obtain 48 documents from them.

He expressed concern that his client's case would be prejudiced without the documents, and thus requested the postponement.

Najib's lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah echoed Kumaraendran's concern.

The court then fixed July 22 for the trial to start.

On June 4, the court adjourned the proceedings for both parties to sort out documents that will be used for the trial.

Najib and Irwan were charged in October 2018, and had pleaded not guilty to six charges of CBT involving government funds used as payments to the International Petroleum Investment Company.

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

The charges, under Section 409 of the Penal Code for CBT by a public servant or agent, carry a maximum of 20 years' imprisonment, caning and a fine upon conviction.