

Najib being escorted into the court complex yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC



Najib, Irwan CBT trial postponed to June 19

> Hearing delayed due to more than 100 documents, including memos, emails, not submitted yet to defence team

KUALA LUMPUR: The trial of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and former treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah on six charges of criminal breach of trust (CBT) involving RM6.6 billion has been postponed to June 19.

High Court Judge Datuk Muhammad Jamil Hussin allowed the application for postponement by lawyers Datuk K. Kumaraendran and Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, representing Mohd Irwan and Najib respectively, due to more than 100 documents not being

submitted to the defence yet.

DPP Muhammad Saifuddin Hashim Musaimi told the court the prosecution does not object to the application for postponement by the defence, Bernama reported.

"The trial is postponed until June 19 to give an opportunity for the prosecution to examine the documents. Two weeks are sufficient for the defence to examine the documents and prepare their defence, the trial will commence on June 19," said Muhammad Jamil.

Earlier, Kumaraendran said among the documents were Cabinet meeting

memos, emails referring to defence witness statements and recorded statements from witnesses.

"We also informed the prosecution the caution statement was amended by our client during investigation. It was never served to us despite the reminders to them," he said.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Shafee also requested for the court to postpone yesterday's trial as there were a lot more documents that had not been served by the prosecution.

"We expect the prosecution will serve us (the documents). There are seven volumes of documents that need to be reviewed.

"These missing documents will trigger a lot of adjournments should the trial start today. Unless we see how the prosecution navigate their case through the documents, we cannot see the light in our defence," said Muhammad Shafee, adding that there

were also other ongoing trials involving Najib with the same defence team, namely the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) case and SRC International Sdn Bhd civil suit

"For 1MDB, we are in the midst of preparing the submission right now and my entire team has been engaged and I must say we are exhausted but we are pressing on to complete the submission in the month of July.

"If *Yang Arif* insists, we can break up the dates because they are days in between. I am sure we can locate days, otherwise this trial will only start in 2025," said Muhammad Shafee.

Muhammad Saifuddin said his team had submitted documents in four stages from 2018 to 2021.

On Oct 24, 2018, Najib, 70, and Mohd Irwan, 66, pleaded not guilty to six charges of CBT of RM6.6 billion in government funds involving payments to the International Petroleum Investment Company.

They were jointly accused of committing the offences at the Finance Ministry Complex in Putrajaya between Dec 21, 2016 and Dec 18, 2017.

They were charged under Section 409 of the Penal Code, read together with Section 34 of the same law, which provides a maximum of 20 years' jail, whipping and a fine.