

RM232.5 MILLION IN BRIBES

MUHYIDDIN TURNS TO FEDERAL COURT

Ex-PM seeks to overturn appellate court decision to reinstate abuse of power charges

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FORMER prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has filed an appeal at the Federal Court after the Court of Appeal reinstated four charges of abuse of power against him.

A notice of appeal was filed at the Federal Court on Thursday through law firm Chetan Jethwani and Company, naming the

prosecution as a respondent.

The notice said the 76-year-old Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president was appealing the entire decision by Court of Appeal judges Datuk Hadhariah Syed Ismail, Datuk Azmi Ariffin and Datuk S.M. Komathy Suppiah.

On Wednesday, the judges allowed the prosecution to reinstate the abuse of power charges and ordered the case to be remitted to the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court.

The charges against Muhyiddin

were linked to the Jana Wibawa programme during his time as prime minister.

The appeal challenges the unanimous decision by the judges that Bersatu is a political society that can be defined as an associate under Section 3 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act and that the High Court judge had erred in deciding that the four charges did not disclose any offence known to law.

The appeal also includes the decision that the four charges were clear and unambiguous and that there was no necessity for the prosecution to set out the manner or give further particulars on how the offences were committed.



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (left) at the Court of Appeal in Putrajaya on Wednesday. The charges against him are linked to the Jana Wibawa programme during his time as prime minister. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAM TAMADI

The prosecution's appeal came after a High Court judge acquitted and released Muhyiddin of the charges on Aug 15 last year, ruling that they were all defective and in bad faith.

The judgment was made on two grounds — lack of details in the charges and the accused was charged over offences unknown to law.

Following the Court of Appeal's decision, Muhyiddin's counsel, Datuk Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said an appeal might be filed at the Federal Court.

On March 10 last year, Muhyiddin was charged with four counts of using his positions as then

prime minister and Bersatu president to obtain bribes amounting to RM232.5 million from three companies — Bukhary Equity Sdn Bhd, Nepturis Sdn Bhd and Mamfor Sdn Bhd — and Datuk Azman Yusoff for the party.

He allegedly committed the offences at the Prime Minister's Office, Perdana Putra, in Putrajaya between March 1, 2020 and Aug 20, 2021.

On April 18 last year, Muhyiddin, who is also Perikatan Nasional chairman, filed an application to quash the four charges under Section 23 (1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act.