

BAR TO CONTEST NAJIB'S HALVED SENTENCE

Legal body will file judicial review against FT Pardons Board decision in 2 weeks

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THE Malaysian Bar will file a judicial review against the Federal Territories Pardons Board over its decision to reduce former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's prison term by half for his SRC International corruption conviction.

The motion was passed at its 78th Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday.

Newly elected Malaysian Bar president Mohamed Ezri Abdul Wahab said 238 members supported the motion, with one member objecting.

He said the judicial review would be filed within two weeks.

Asked why the Bar Council had to be the one to file such a court challenge and not other individuals or organisations, Ezri replied: "The floor (attendees at the AGM) has decided on that, therefore, it is our responsibility to file the judicial review to protect the rule of law.

"We are filing the judicial review against the Pardons Board and not against the decision by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"So, the judicial review is to ascertain what is the right thing that should happen," he told a press conference after the AGM.

On Feb 2, the Federal Territories Pardons Board reduced Najib's fine from RM210 million to RM50 million, and halved his 12-year jail term.

This means that the former prime minister will be released from prison on Aug 23, 2028.

Najib was found guilty of one count of abuse of power when Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP) granted a RM4 billion loan to SRC

International Sdn Bhd, as well as three counts each for criminal breach of trust and abuse of power involving RM42 million of SRC funds.

SRC International is a former subsidiary of strategic investment firm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The sentence was meted out by the High Court on July 28, 2020.

On Oct 19 of the same year, Najib filed a petition containing 307 grounds of why he should be freed of the charges.

On Dec 8, 2021, the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision and dismissed Najib's appeal to set aside his conviction and jail sentence.

On Aug 23, 2022, the Federal Court upheld the conviction.

The 70-year-old former Pekan member of parliament is still facing four charges of abusing his position to obtain bribes totalling RM2.3 billion of 1MDB funds and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.



*Mohamed Ezri
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