

# PROSECUTION RESTS ITS CASE

235 days of trial spanning 6 years and 50 witnesses

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**A**FTER 235 days spanning six years, the prosecution has rested its case against Datuk Seri Najib

Razak on four charges of using his position to obtain RM2.3 billion in bribes from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB). Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Akram Gharib said: "I hereby close the prosecution's case after 235 days of trial spanning six years and hearing testimony from 50 prosecution witnesses." Najib was charged in the Sessions Court on Sept 20, 2018, and the case was allowed to be transferred to the High Court on Oct 31, 2018, with the trial starting on



Aug 28, 2019.

Among the witnesses called to testify were former 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh, former 1MDB chief executive Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halimi, former Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz and former 1MDB general counsel Jasmine Loo Ai Swan.

Presiding judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah asked both parties to file written submissions



Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz

on July 26.

The judge fixed Aug 19 until 22 for both parties to give their oral submissions.

The former prime minister is charged under Section 23(1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act (MACC), which provides for imprisonment of up to 20 years and a fine of up to five times the amount or value of the bribe, or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if found guilty.

For the 21 charges of money laundering, he is accused of committing the offences between March 22, 2013, and Aug 30, 2013.

All charges are under Section 4(l)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing, and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act, which carries a maximum fine of RM5 million and imprisonment for up to five years, or both, upon conviction.

Earlier yesterday, Zeti said former Ambank chief executive officer Ashok Ramamurthy tried to cover up his wrongdoing in the 1MDB scandal.

She said this during re-examination by Akram.

Earlier, Akram told Zeti that Ashok had given a different version from what she had told the court about their meeting to discuss the opening of Najib's bank account at Ambank.

Ashok, in his statement, said he had sent several letters to Zeti to update her about funds entering Najib's account allegedly from Saudi Arabia, which Zeti denied.

**Akram:** To your knowledge, is there any reason he (Ashok) wants to do this?

**Zeti:** Yes. He wants to cover up his wrongdoing during his time as Ambank chief executive officer. It (the wrongdoing) starts from the very beginning.

Zeti, a key witness in the trial, said Ambank failed to exercise due diligence before releasing the funds.

"In the case of other financial institutions, they did due diligence and that is when they found out that the funds went to Good Star Ltd.

"That is why they got a letter from former 1MDB chief executive Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi."

It was revealed during the trial that Good Star was an offshore company linked to fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low.

Zeti said Ambank also committed a serious offence when it fabricated transactions involving Good Star.