

# 'I GAVE NOTICE ON INCOMING FUNDS'

Najib says he wanted BNM, AmBank to monitor account that got Arab donation

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**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak said he was aware that a large sum of money, purportedly from the Saudi royal family, would be remitted into his personal bank account, the High Court heard yesterday.

The former prime minister said he had informed AmBank about the transaction beforehand so that both the bank and Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) would be alerted.

"I wanted both of them (BNM and AmBank) to monitor my account to make sure that nothing untoward happens.

"As a customer, I would not have access to the source of funds," he said this when testifying in a US\$1.18 billion civil suit filed by SRC International

against him and the company's former chief executive officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, who is still at large.

Najib said he had informed AmBank former group managing director Cheah Tek Kuang about the transaction and asked the latter to notify BNM via then governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz.

"I alerted Cheah and asked him to deliver the letter to inform Zeti."

The 71-year-old was referring to the letter, purportedly from Saudi royalty and signed by Prince Saud Abdulaziz Al-Saud, which was addressed to Najib, to inform him about the donation.

Najib's defence team presented the letter in his criminal trial for misappropriating 1MDB funds to support their claim that the millions deposited into his account were a donation from the Saudi monarch.

In 2022, Cheah, when testifying in Najib's 1MDB criminal trial, ad-

mitted that he had informed Zeti about the incoming funds during a secret meeting at the latter's office.



*"If you inadvertently or deliberately say something, then it could constitute a crime."*

**DATUK SERI NAJIB RAZAK**  
former prime minister

However, Zeti, in testifying at the same trial, refuted Cheah's statement, arguing that the meeting was purely a matter of courtesy.

When asked by his lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, whether he knew that the money was from something illegal, Najib responded that he never suspected anything.

Najib also reiterated that he never meddled in investigations into the global financial

scandal involving 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and its former subsidiary, SRC International Sdn Bhd.

He expressed concern about both companies being under the scrutiny of authorities, but said it would not have been appropriate for him to request updates on the status of the investigation.

Najib said this was due to the

fact that he was also under investigation for the same issue at the time.

"I was also being investigated, I know that because they came to my office to question me. So when you are being investigated as well, I could be accused of interfering with the investigation, which was at the back of my mind, so I left it to the investigation.

"If you inadvertently or deliberately say something, then it could constitute a crime," he said.

A special task force comprising officers from the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC), the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), police and BNM began their probe into the financial scandal in July 2015.

SRC International, under its new management, filed the suit in May 2021, claiming that Najib had committed a breach of trust and abuse of power.

The company also alleged that Najib misappropriated its funds and benefited from it.

It is also seeking a court declaration that Najib is responsible for the company's losses due to his breach of duties and trust, and for him to pay back the RM42 million in losses it suffered.

The trial before Judge Datuk Ahmad Fairuz Zainol Abidin continues.