

'MILLIONS REMITTED TO NAJIB'S BANK ACCOUNTS'

Jho Low late ally's statement to MACC read in court

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TENSION gripped the High Court yesterday as a statement by the late Kee Kok Thiam, an associate of fugitive businessman

Low Taek Jho, was read and admitted, revealing he had remitted millions into Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank account.

Kee, who died in 2023, admitted to making the transactions between 2014 and 2015 as instructed by former Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) chief investment officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, a mandate holder authorised to manage Najib's account.

Deputy public prosecutor Deepa Nair Thevavaran read Kee's statement during Najib's trial for misappropriating billions from the sovereign wealth fund.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) investigating officer Raywell Anduroh had recorded Kee statement upon his return to Malaysia after disappearing when the Barisan Nasional-led government fell in 2018.

Raywell confirmed Kee's statement when she testified as a defence witness before judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah.

Kee's statement reads: "While in Phuket, we found out that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad became prime minister, and we were worried that Datuk Seri Najib might be investigated.

"Jho Low asked us not to return to Malaysia immediately to assess the political situation in Malaysia.

"Jho Low told me that if Datuk

Seri Najib was investigated and I returned to Malaysia, I might be investigated for depositing money into Datuk Seri Najib's account."

In 2023, the police classified Kok Thiam's death as sudden death due to health factors.

He had earlier been deported from Macau for overstaying.

Another defence witness, magistrate's court assistant registrar Nabilla Md Yusoff said the court had issued three arrest warrants against the former 1MDB general counsel Jasmine Loo Ai Swan, who is now under the witness protection programme.

She said two of the warrants were applied for by the police, and one by the MACC, following Loo's disappearance after the fall of the BN government in 2018.

However, Nabilla, said she did not know whether the arrest warrants had been enforced.

"I don't know if the warrants have been executed as no updates have been presented in court. Any development should be updated in the court file.

"My job is only to process arrest warrant applications and set dates for mentions," she said.

The court heard that Loo, a close associate of Jho Low, played a key role in helping him siphon billions from 1MDB.

However, Loo surrendered to the police in July 2023 and was placed under witness protection to assist in investigations into the global financial scandal.

She later became a prosecution witness, offering testimony on how billions from the fund were channelled into dubious bank accounts.

Najib faces four charges of using his position to obtain RM2.3 billion in bribes from 1MDB funds and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.

The trial continues.

