



Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex yesterday after hearing the decision on his application to serve the rest of his sentence under house arrest. BERNAMA PIC

ADDENDUM ORDER RULED INVALID

NAJIB'S HOUSE ARREST BID REJECTED

High Court rules former PM must complete his jail sentence in prison

KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK Seri Najib Razak will remain in Kajang Prison to complete his jail sentence for misappropriating RM42 million from SRC International Sdn Bhd.

High Court judge Alice Loke Yee Ching yesterday dismissed the former prime minister's judicial review application to enforce an alleged royal addendum that would have allowed him to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

The courtroom was packed, with Najib's immediate family filling the front row of the public gallery.

Present were his younger brother Tan Sri Nazir Razak; his sons Datuk Nazifuddin Mohd Najib, Datuk Mohamad Nizar Mohd Najib and Ashman Najib; and his daughter Putri Norlisa Najib.

Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah

Mansor, was seated on his left among family members throughout the hearing, while Nazir sat on his right.

The former Umno president appeared visibly subdued as the ruling was read out, occasionally lowering his gaze while listening to the court's reasoning.

The family was flanked by Prison Department officers in camouflage uniforms on one side and uniformed police officers on the other. Najib was not required to sit in the dock as the proceedings were civil in nature.

After the hearing, Rosmah appeared visibly distressed and asked Najib's lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, to explain the ruling and the next steps following the court's decision.

She was later comforted by family members and supporters, who gathered around her as emotions ran high in the aftermath of the ruling.

Earlier, Loke ruled that the alleged addendum order was invalid as it was made in excess of Article 42 of the Federal Constitution and did not comply with the mandatory procedures governing the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy.

She held that the addendum order was neither deliberated nor decided upon by the Pardons Board, which had considered and advised only on Najib's application for a full pardon and a reduction of his prison term.

The judge said the minutes of the Pardons Board meeting showed that the then Yang di-Pertuan Agong had made only one decision at the meeting — a 50 per cent reduction of Najib's imprisonment term and fine — with no mention of house arrest.

"As such, no advice of the Pardons Board was tendered in respect of house arrest.

"The addendum order was therefore not made following the procedure prescribed under Article 42," she said.

Najib is currently serving a reduced jail term following the Pardons Board's decision last year to halve his original 12-year sentence and RM210 million fine.

The court made no order as to costs.

Page 1 pic: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak leaving the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex yesterday following the verdict on the addendum order for his house arrest.