

Najib convicted on all 25 charges in 1MDB graft trial

Historic High Court judgment brings sprawling seven-year saga to a close

PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has been found guilty on all 25 charges in his corruption trial linked to the misappropriation of RM2.3bil from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The historic judgment by the High Court, in one of the most closely watched trials in the country, marks a major victory for the prosecution in the sprawling 1MDB saga which has drawn intense domestic and international scrutiny.

Najib, 72, was convicted on four charges of abusing his power and 21 counts of laundering funds belonging to 1MDB.

The verdict was handed down yesterday by trial judge Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah (pic), who has since been elevated to the Federal Court.

He took more than five hours to read the judgment.

The judge found that the prosecution had succeeded in proving every one of the 25 charges against Najib beyond a reasonable doubt.

Najib had faced four charges of using his position to obtain RM2.3bil in bribes from 1MDB funds through the Amlslamic Bank Bhd branch in Jalan Raja Chulan between Feb 24, 2011, and Dec 19, 2014.

These charges were brought under Section 23(1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, which carries up to 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of either five times the amount of the bribe or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Najib also faced an additional 21 counts of money laundering at



the same bank between March 22, 2013, and Aug 30, 2013.

These charges were framed under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, which carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment, a fine of up to RM5mil, or both.

Throughout the proceedings yesterday, Najib, sporting a blue suit, remained composed as his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, daughters Nooryana Najwa and Puteri Norlisa, and sons Datuk Mohd Nazifuddin and Datuk Mohd Nizar watched on.

Deputy public prosecutors Datuk Ahmad Akram Gharib and Datuk Kamal Baharin Omar led the prosecution while Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah represented the former prime minister.

Najib was first charged on Sept

20, 2018.

The trial commenced on Aug 28, 2019, with the prosecution formally closing its case on May 30, 2024.

The high-profile seven-year trial saw 50 prosecution witnesses including former Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, former 1MDB chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halimi, former 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Mohamad Bakke Salleh, former 1MDB general counsel Jasmine Loo Ai Swan and MACC investigating officer senior Supt Nur Aida Ariffin.

On Oct 30, 2024, the High Court ruled that the prosecution had established a prima facie case and ordered Najib to enter his defence on all charges.

The defence case was heard over a 58-day period from Dec 2, 2024, to May 6, 2025, during which a total of 26 witnesses testified.

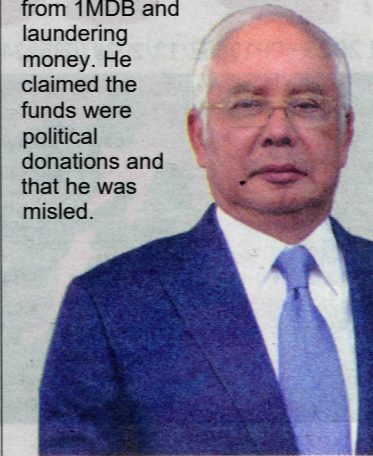
Key witnesses for the defence included former 1MDB chairman Tan Sri Che Lodin Wok Kamarudin, Tengku Datuk Rahimah Sultan Mahmud, a sister of the Sultan of Terengganu, and former minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom.

The hearing of oral submissions at the end of defence case concluded on Nov 4.

Najib is presently incarcerated at Kajang Prison, where he is serving a sentence for the misappropriation of RM42mil from SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Key personalities in the 1MDB scandal

Datuk Seri Najib Razak
Role: Former prime minister of Malaysia
Involvement: Accused of misappropriating funds from 1MDB and laundering money. He claimed the funds were political donations and that he was misled.



Goldman Sachs Group Inc Executives
Involvement: The bank facilitated the raising of funds, which were later misappropriated. They settled charges related to the scandal by paying significant fines.

Roger Ng
Role: Former Goldman Sachs banker
Involvement: Convicted of bribery and money laundering related to 1MDB by a federal judge in New York.



Khadem Ai Qubaisi
Role: Former managing director of the International Petroleum Investment Company



Involvement: Allegedly involved in laundering funds through IPIC.

Xavier Justo
Role: Former PetroSaudi executive and retired Swiss banker
Involvement: Provided leaked documents that were pivotal in exposing the 1MDB scandal.



Jasmine Loo
Role: Former general counsel at 1MDB
Involvement: Allegedly facilitated 1MDB fund misappropriation, said to have worked closely with Jho Low.



Leonardo DiCaprio
Role: Actor and philanthropist
Involvement: Received donations from 1MDB funds for his charity foundation and movie 'The Wolf of Wall Street', and helped US authorities in the corruption probe.



Jho Low
Role: Malaysian businessman and financier
Involvement: Alleged mastermind behind the 1MDB fraud, orchestrating the movement of funds internationally for personal gain and lavish spending.



Riza Shahriz Abdul Aziz
Role: Stepson of Najib and a film producer
Involvement: His company, Red Granite Pictures, was reportedly funded by 1MDB money, producing films like 'The Wolf of Wall Street'.



Tim Leissner
Role: Former Goldman Sachs Group Inc banker.
Involvement: Pleaded guilty to bribery and money laundering charges. He played a significant role in raising funds for 1MDB through bond sales.



Prosecution team

Led by:
DPP Datuk Ahmad Akram Gharib
DPP Datuk Kamal Baharin Omar
Supported by:
■ Mohamad Mustafa P. Konyalam
■ Deepa Nair Thevarahan
■ Nadia Mohd Izhar
■ Najwa Bistamam
■ Hazmida Harris Lee
■ Siti Aina Rodhiah Shikh Md Saud

Defence team

Led by:
Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah
Supported by:
■ Datuk Tania Scivetti
■ Wan Azwan Aiman Wan Fakhruddin
■ Wan Mohammad Arfan Wan Othman
■ Hartrisha Kaur Sandhu
■ Naresh Mayachandran

Source: Various news reports