

ALLEGED ROYAL ADDENDUM

Court of Appeal hearing Najib's house arrest appeal today

KUALA LUMPUR: The Court of Appeal will today hear Datuk Seri Najib Razak's appeal against the dismissal of his bid to serve the remainder of his six-year prison sentence under house arrest, based on his claim of the existence of a royal addendum to that effect.

The hearing, initially scheduled for Dec 5, will start at 9am before a three-member bench comprising Datuk Azizah Nawawi, Datuk Azhahari Kamal Ramli and Datuk Seri Mohd Firuz Jaffril.

The court will also hear the former prime minister's application

to adduce additional evidence to support his claim of the existence of the addendum.

The hearing was postponed to today after Najib's lawyer, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, informed a three-judge panel that he had filed an application on Dec 3 to present additional evidence.

Najib, 71, is appealing the Kuala Lumpur High Court's decision on July 3 last year to dismiss his application for leave to commence a judicial review of the alleged addendum issued by the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. He claimed the addendum would permit him

to serve the remainder of his jail sentence under house arrest.

High Court judge Datuk Amarjeet Singh had ruled that the four affidavits supporting the claim, including from Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and vice-president Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail, were hearsay and inadmissible.

Najib is seeking a mandamus order to compel the respondents to provide a response and verify the existence of the alleged additional decree dated Jan 29 last year.

The respondents are the gov-

ernment, the home minister, the Prisons commissioner-general, the attorney-general, the Federal Territories Pardons Board, the law and institutional reform minister in the Prime Minister's Department and the director-general of the Prime Minister's Department's Legal Affairs Division.

The former Pekan member of parliament is also seeking an order that, if the additional decree is confirmed to exist, the respondents be compelled to enforce it and facilitate his immediate transfer from Kajang Prison to his

residence in Kuala Lumpur to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

Najib is serving his prison sentence after being convicted of misappropriating RM42 million from SRC International Sdn Bhd.

The High Court had sentenced him to 12 years in prison and fined him RM210 million. The verdict was upheld by the Court of Appeal and Federal Court.

Najib filed a petition for a royal pardon on Sept 2, 2022. His prison sentence was later halved to six years and his fine reduced to RM50 million. **Bernama**