

Najib's house arrest appeal to be heard today

Court to hear ex-PM's application to adduce additional evidence to support royal addendum existence claim

KUALA LUMPUR: The Court of Appeal will hear today Datuk Seri Najib Abdul 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, which was initially scheduled for Dec 5 last year, will commence at 9am before a three-member bench comprising justices Datuk Azizah Nawawi, Datuk Azhahari Kamal Ramli and Datuk Seri Mohd Firuz Jaffril.

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 last year to present additional evidence, Bernama reported.

The court will also hear the former premier's application to adduce additional evidence to support his claim of the existence

of such an addendum

Najib, 71, is appealing the Kuala Lumpur High Court's July 3 decision last year, which dismissed his application for leave to commence a judicial review of a purported addendum issued by the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He claims the addendum would permit him to serve the remainder of his prison sentence under house arrest.

High Court Judge Datuk Amarjeet Singh had ruled that the four affidavits supporting Najib's 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 purported additional decree dated Jan 2 last year.

The respondents are the government, the home minister; the commissioner-general of prisons; the attorney-general; the Pardons Board for the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya; the minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) and director-general of Legal Affairs Division at the Prime Minister's Department.

The former Pekan MP also seeks 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 a six-year 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 with a fine of RM210 million and the verdict was subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal and Federal Court. His prison sentence was halved to six years and his fine was reduced to RM50 million following his petition for a royal pardon on Sept 2, 2022.