

Najib had 'absolute' power

Prosecution: He was aware and in charge of key 1MDB decisions

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PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was not a victim but the architect of his own crimes, the High Court heard.

Deputy public prosecutor Datuk Ahmad Akram Gharib said the evidence painted a picture of a man who was not wronged by others, but who instead used others to carry out his orders.

"He was not the victim of other men's crimes; he was the architect of those crimes. The individuals he now labels as culprits acted on his instructions, through his office, and for his benefit.

"The accused portrays himself as a victim of rogue subordinates when in truth, he was the single most powerful decision-maker in Malaysia as well as in 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) at the material time. The accused wielded absolute executive, financial and political control," he said during submissions yesterday.

Ahmad Akram said 1MDB's

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Datuk Ahmad Akram Gharib

board of directors, management and officers all operated under Najib's direction.

"He cannot now shift blame to those beneath him when his own approval, his own office and his own accounts were at the centre of the transactions," he added.

The prosecution said every individual blamed by Najib had acted on his instructions or with his approval, as they were his subordinates bound to follow the prime minister's directives, either directly or through his intermediary, Low Taek Jho, or Jho Low.

"The evidence demonstrates that the accused was not an uninvolved superior but the originator, director and ultimate beneficiary of the schemes in question," Ahmad Akram said.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohamad Mustaffa P. Kunyalam dismissed Najib's defence that he was "duped", saying his actions showed otherwise.

He said Najib was not deceived by Low but had instead integrated him deeply into both his personal and official affairs, with Low arranging the accused's pri-

vate holidays while also managing 1MDB's financial dealings.

"This was no coincidence. It reflects the accused's reliance on, sanction of and trust in Jho Low.

"The only reasonable inference is that Jho Low functioned as the accused's conduit, proxy and indispensable facilitator in the affairs of 1MDB," he said.

Low, who remains at large, has been singled out by Najib's defence as the real mastermind.

However, Mohamad Mustaffa noted that while no action was taken against Low, the then attorney general was removed from office at the height of the fiasco.

"So can the accused now claim he was duped by Jho Low? The answer is no," he said.

He further submitted that 1MDB's management was deliberately chaotic.

"If everything had been run according to proper corporate standards, we wouldn't be here. Funds wouldn't have flowed elsewhere, and they wouldn't have ended up in the accused's AmBank account," he said.