

SRC INTERNATIONAL SUIT

NAJIB: MY ROLE IN SRC WAS LIMITED

Ex-PM says he held veto power but acted only as 'final stage' for board appointments

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak never initiated or proposed the appointment of directors of SRC International Sdn Bhd and did not manage the affairs of the national strategic investment company, the High Court heard yesterday.

The former prime minister, who was testifying as defendant in a suit filed by SRC International and its subsidiary, Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd, maintained that his role in the company was limited to approval and veto powers.

Under cross-examination by lawyer Kwan Will Sen, Najib said he merely approved the appointments of board members that were presented to him.

Najib also acknowledged that he approved the appointments of all five SRC International directors, but said the list of candidates was not initiated by him.

Earlier, Najib was referred to a letter dated Aug 1, 2011, showing his approval of the appointments of Tan Sri Ismee Ismail, Datuk Suboh Yassin, Che Abdullah@ Rashidi Che Omar, Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi and Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil as members of the SRC International board of directors.



SRC International and Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd are seeking a declaration that Datuk Seri Najib Razak is liable for the receipt of RM42 million belonging to the company. NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

In the civil claim, the plaintiffs had earlier dropped the five directors from the suit, retaining Najib as the sole defendant.

However, the High Court later allowed Najib's application to issue third-party notices against them.

Through the suit filed in 2021, SRC and Gandingan Mentari are seeking a declaration that Najib is liable for the receipt of RM42 million belonging to the company.

The plaintiffs are also seeking damages for knowing receipt of the funds, dishonest assistance and abuse of power.

Meanwhile, Najib, who was also the company's former adviser, agreed that he had veto powers over the appointment and removal of directors, but stressed that he was merely the "final stage" in the process.

"I only formalised the appointments. The proposals must come from someone who would submit them to the prime minister, but before they are finalised, the prime minister must give approval," he said.

On the appointment of Nik Faisal, Najib said he did not know the individual but Nik Faisal had been recommended as he was considered to have the appropriate qualifications.

Nik Faisal is a former director and chief executive officer of SRC International and remains at large.

The court was previously informed that Nik Faisal was a mandate holder for one of Najib's bank accounts.

Hearing before judge Datuk Raja Ahmad Mohzanuddin Shah Raja Mohzan resumes on Jan 21.