

NAJIB: I DIDN'T KNOW EX-SRC CEO

Nik Faisal appointed to manage accounts based on then aide's recommendation, ex-PM tells court

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak said he had never known or met former SRC International Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, despite authorising him to manage two bank accounts in his name.

The former prime minister said the appointment of Nik Faisal as the authorised signatory to the accounts in 2011 was made based on a strong recommendation from his then principal private secretary, the late Datuk Azlin Alias, and Nik Faisal's professional credentials as an accountant.

Nik Faisal fled the country and has remained at large since the fall of the Barisan Nasional government following the 14th



Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday. The former prime minister told the court he did not draft the letter appointing former SRC International Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil to manage his two Ambank accounts and he never anticipated that any issue would arise from the arrangement. NSTP PIC BY SAIFULLIZAM TAMADI

General Election in 2018.

Najib said this when testifying in a civil suit against him filed by SRC International and its subsidiary, Gandingan Mentari Sdn Bhd.

Najib said the two Ambank ac-

counts were not for personal use.

"They were in my name, but the purpose was to receive contributions to carry out CSR (corporate social responsibility)," he said during cross-examination by lawyer Kwan Will Sen, who

appeared for the company.

Najib said this intention was never recorded in writing nor formally communicated to the bank.

"The intention was not stated in writing, but in my understanding, the funds received were to be

channelled to CSR activities."

He said he did not draft the letter appointing Nik Faisal to manage the accounts and he never anticipated that any issue would arise from the arrangement.

The suit, filed in 2021, among others seeks a declaration that Najib is responsible for the receipt of RM42 million, as well as damages over allegations of knowing receipt of the funds, dishonest assistance, misfeasance in public office and abuse of power.

In earlier proceedings, the court was told that the RM42 million, which was meant to finance CSR projects, was transferred into two personal Ambank accounts belonging to Najib.

Former Yayasan Rakyat IMalaysia (YR1M) chief executive officer Ung Su Ling had testified that she learnt that the accounts belonged to Najib through media reports during the SRC criminal trial.

She said she was unaware the funds originated from SRC when she received instructions from Azlin to facilitate the transfer of funds from Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd.

The trial before High Court judge Datuk Raja Ahmad Mohzanuddin Shah Raja Mohzan resumes today.