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# Money trail grows longer

On the day that lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah was charged with money laundering in connection with cheques issued by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the police revealed that over 50 people had received money traced to the large amount of 1MDB-linked funds that went into the former prime minister's bank account. > See reports by **NURBAITI HAMDAN** and **ROYCE TAN** on Pages 2 and 3

- Lawyer accused of money laundering involving RM9.5mil
- Shafee wants Sri Ram disqualified as lead prosecutor
- Shafee: I'm out in the open, I can't be hiding
- Najib accuses other side of playing dirty again
- Clash of legal titans – Round Two



**Facing charges:** Shafee being escorted by MACC officers to the Sessions Court. — Bernama

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# Four charges against Shafee

Lawyer accused of money laundering to the tune of RM9.5mil

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prominent lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah has claimed trial at a Sessions Court here to four charges of money laundering involving RM9.5mil that he received from Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The 66-year-old is accused of receiving proceeds of unlawful activity totalling RM4.3mil on Sept 13, 2013, and RM5.2mil on Feb 17, 2014, through two AmIslamic Bank Bhd cheques issued by the former prime minister. The cheques were remitted into Muhammad Shafee's CIMB Bank account.

He allegedly committed the two offences at CIMB Bank Bhd, J2 & K1, Taman Tunku, Bukit Tunku here.

The charges under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 carry a fine not exceeding RM5mil or up to five years in jail or both, upon conviction.

In the third charge, Muhammad Shafee is accused of directly engaging in a transaction that involves proceeds of unlawful activity by making an incorrect return on his income tax statement. He allegedly did so by omitting the RM4.3mil he had received from Najib.

The fourth charge relates to the same offence involving the RM5.2mil received from Najib.

Both offences were allegedly committed at the Inland Revenue Board at Kompleks Pejabat Kerajaan, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim here on March 3, 2015, and June 29, 2015, respectively.

The third and fourth charges come under Section 4(1)(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activity Act 2001.

(The Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 were amended in 2014. The changes included it being renamed the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activity Act.)

If convicted, Muhammad Shafee faces imprisonment up to 15 years and a fine of not less than five times the sum or value of the proceeds of the unlawful activity or RM5mil,



**Holding court:** Muhammad Shafee speaking to the media after paying his bail at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex.

whichever is higher.

He had his charges read out in Malay and pleaded not guilty before Judge Azura Alwi.

DPP Ahmad Akram Gharib from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) objected to bail.

"But if the court wishes to use its discretion, we suggest RM2.5mil bail for all four charges," he said.

Muhammad Shafee's lead counsel Harvinderjit Singh asked the court to impose a personal bond with no amount of bail.

"Muhammad Shafee is not unknown to anyone in this court. He has 33 years experience as a lawyer and six years as a DPP. He has acted for both entities, government and non-government, in the court-room.

"We have included his 20-page CV (curriculum vitae). He has handled hundreds of cases over 33 years. The man standing today is immaculate," Harvinderjit said.

He later suggested a bail of between RM500,000 and RM600,000 on grounds that RM2.5mil was excessive.

Former federal court judge Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram, who was appointed by the Attorney General's Chambers to lead the prosecution, told the court to consider public interest as the offences were levelled against a senior lawyer.

"That is the seriousness of the offences. To release the accused on a personal bond is an insult to the public.

"There is no politics in this. He is not a politician," Sri Ram said, asking the court not to impose any special treatment for the accused.

Harvinderjit stood up to say that Muhammad Shafee was not at a sentencing.

"My learned counsel (Sri Ram) said nobody here is a politician. My client is a defence counsel for a politician (Najib).

"This is an extraordinary case. I

ask the court to give some credence to Muhammad Shafee who has been an officer of the court for 39 years," he added.

Azura then fixed bail at RM1mil in two sureties and ordered Muhammad Shafee's two passports – diplomatic and civilian – to be surrendered to the court.

She also allowed the defence's application for the bail to be paid in two instalments.

The court was also informed that a close relative and a family friend stepped up as his bailors.

Muhammad Shafee made the first payment of RM500,000 yesterday. The balance will be paid next Tuesday.

The case is fixed for mention on Oct 2.

Watch the video  
[thestartv.com](http://thestartv.com)

