

TRIAL OF EX-TABUNG HAJI CHAIRMAN

# Latif to testify against brother Azeez in RM4 million bribery case

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The elder brother of former Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim was yesterday given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA) from two charges of abetting his brother to obtain a RM4 million bribe.

Abdul Latif Abdul Rahim's case was dropped by Sessions Court judge Azura Alwi after she allowed an application by the prosecution to grant the DNAA against him.

Deputy public prosecutor Adam Mohamed said the prosecution made the application after Latif agreed to become a witness against his brother.

"The defence had sent two rep-

resentation letters to the Attorney-General's Chambers requesting us to drop his charges three months ago. Today (yesterday), we told the court about our request (over the DNAA) and the court allowed it," he said.

Latif was accused of abetting his brother in obtaining a RM4 million bribe from Mohammad Redzuan Mohanan Abdullah, director of Syarikat Menuju Asas Sdn Bhd, as gratification to help the company secure road projects through limited tender from the Works Ministry.

The court yesterday also vacated Azeez's trial which was scheduled to resume following a High Court ruling which granted a stay

on the hearing pending Azeez's application to quash his 13 corruption charges including money laundering.

Azeez's counsel Joshua Tay when contacted confirmed the matter.

"We received a letter from the High Court Senior Deputy Registrar Norazihah Asmuni informing us about the matter."

The Baling member of parliament on Dec 23 had applied to

strike out all of his corruption charges at the High Court.

Azeez claimed the prosecution against him was mala fide and that the charges were defective and groundless.

The trial of the corruption case involving Azeez and his brother Latif had been held before judge Azura with five prosecution witnesses being called.

Azeez, 53, is charged with three counts of accepting bribes to-

talling RM5.2 million in connection with road projects in Perak and Kedah, and nine counts of money laundering, involving nearly RM140 million, while his 62-year-old brother was accused of abetting him.

The project involved the Pantai Baru Coastal Expressway Project and upgrading works of Federal Road FT005 (Teluk Intan to Kampung Lekir, Perak) valued at RM644,480,000.



*Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim (left) and his elder brother, Abdul Latif Abdul Rahim.*