Mahathir to be called to testify in Liong Sik trial
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Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be called to testify in the corruption trial of former transport minister Dr Ling Liong Sik, DPP Tun Abdul Majid Tun Hamzah told the Kuala Lumpur High Court today.

The DPP said this after asking former Valuation and Property Services Department (JPPH) director Sahari Mahadi to confirm a letter that Ling had written to Mahathir (left).

Sahari is the second prosecution witness in the trial.

Ling was initially accused of deceiving the cabinet into agreeing on the land purchase in Pulau Indah for the PKFZ project according to the terms agreed to between Kuala Dimensi Sdn Bhd (KDSB) and Port Klang Authority (PKA).

In the amended charges disclosed by lawyers yesterday, Ling is said to have failed to reveal facts regarding an interest of 7.5 percent per annum in addition to the cost of the land which was priced at RM25 per sq ft, which amounted to RM1,088,456,000.

On the first count, Ling is alleged to have deceived the cabinet into agreeing to the terms of purchase between KDSB and PKA and giving its approval for the purchase.

He is said to have committed the deception with the knowledge it could cause wrongful losses to the government and despite being bound by a fiduciary duty to protect the government.

The charge, under Section 418 of the Penal Code, carries a maximum sentence of seven years imprisonment or fine or both upon conviction.

Ling faces an alternative charge of similar cheating for deliberately concealing facts related to the project from the cabinet.

The charge, under Section 417 of the Penal Code, is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years or fine or both upon conviction.

It is expected to hear the testimony of 40 prosecution witnesses.

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