

Ling wants PKFZ case moved to High Court
Malaysianmirror.com
3 September 2010

PUTRAJAYA - Former transport minister Dr Ling Liong Sik has applied to move the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) case from the Sessions Court to the High Court Friday.

Ling has also applied to declassify three documents pertaining to the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee and Transport Ministry post-cabinet meetings related to the case, Bernama reported.

According to his lawyer, Wong Kian Kheong, an application has been filed to transfer the case on Sept 1 and the three documents are needed to prepare a proper defence.

"I've also told the prosecution that I need to interview witnesses in the presence of investigation officers."

"My client has retired and had served for a long time. I apply for an early mention date," Wong said.

No problem to declassify documents

Deputy Public Prosecutor Dzulkifli Ahmad said that the prosecution had no objection to declassify the documents.

However, he proposed a mention date in November saying the defence might need time to conduct the interviews.

Judge Suzana Hussin has fixed the date Nov 30 for the mention.

On a related matter, Ling said he was not disturbed by the Selangor palace's issuance of order which prevent him and former Port Klang Authority (PKA) general manager OC Phang from using the honorific 'Datuk' title from the state.

Ling was quoted as saying outside the Sessions Court Friday: "That is his Datuk title, so he can give and take back anytime he wants. I respect that. I have no feeling. It is his right, so no feeling" .

'I'm guilty if Dr M said so'

Responding to Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to testify in court, Ling said that he would be guilty if the former PM testifies that the Cabinet has been cheated on the PKFZ project.

"If they bear witness that they were cheated then I am guilty. If they bear witness that I cheated then there is a case for trial," he was quoted by a news portal as saying.

Dr Mahathir has agreed to appear in court for the PKFZ scandal if summoned saying, "If a person is required to testify in court, he must do it. He cannot say 'I don't want'."

The PKFZ scandal

Ling, 67, was charged on July 29 this year for cheating the government by misleading the Cabinet on the land acquisition for the Mega Distribution Hub in Port Klang.

According to the charge, the fraud was committed with the knowledge that he (Ling) could cause a wrongful loss to the Malaysian government, where he had an interest in the transaction pertaining to the fraud and he was bound under the law to protect it.

On the principal charge under Section 418 of the Penal Code, Ling faces a jail term of up to seven years, and a fine, or both upon conviction.

On the alternative charge, Ling is accused of cheating the cabinet by dishonestly hiding similar facts at the same place and time, under Section 417 of the Penal Code which carries a jail term of up to five years, or a fine, or both upon conviction.

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source :

<http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/49128-ling-wants-pkfz-case-moved-to-high-court>