

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Anti-Corruption Agency did not record a statement from former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in connection with the criminal breach of trust case of former Perwaja Steel managing director Tan Sri Eric Chia, the court was told yesterday.

ACA investigating officer Han Chee Bull said this in reply to questions posed by Chia's lawyer, Datuk Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, during a lengthy cross-examination.

"Are you aware Dr Mahathir went to the Fukuyama plant, incidentally on his birthday, before the RM76.4 million contract was signed?" asked Muhammad Shafee.

(The Fukuyama plant belongs to NKK Corporation, which had a staff exchange programme with Perwaja Steel under the

# 'ACA did not record statement from Dr M'

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RM76.4 million technical aid and assistance agreement.)

Han said he did not know about such a visit.

"Are you also aware that Dr Mahathir was aware that the technical aid and assistance agreement will cost so much?" asked Muhammad Shafee, to which Han replied "no".

Muhammad Shafee took Han meticulously through the

documents compiled by the defence to check if Han, the ACA officer spearheading the investigation, had original copies of these documents.

Han showed sessions court judge Akhtar Tahir some of the original copies of the documents, but said he could not obtain or trace some of the other original documents.

"I am putting it to you that

## TAN SRI ERIC CHIA CBT TRIAL

**Judge:** Kuala Lumpur sessions court Judge Akhtar Tahir

**Prosecution:** Attorney General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail and team.  
**Defence Counsel:** Datuk Muhammad Shafee Abdullah and team.



**Accused:**  
Tan Sri Eric Chia Eng Hock, 71

**Main charge:** While as managing director of Perwaja, he dishonestly authorised payment of RM76.4 million to Fukuyama Enterprise Incorporated for technical assistance from NKK Corporation, when no such payment was due to the latter, at the Perwaja Rolling Mill and Development office in Menara UBN, Jalan P Ramlee, Kuala Lumpur on Feb 18, 1994.

**Alternative charge:** Criminal breach of trust of RM76.4 million, by dishonestly disposing the money by entering into an agreement with NKK Corporation at the same place between Nov 4, 1993 and Feb 22, 1994.

**Penalty:** Jail term of between two and 20 years, and a fine under Section 409 of the Penal Code.

the investigations and charges initiated against my client were carried out due to political pressure," said Muhammad Shafee.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Mohd Yusof Zainel Abiden immediately objected, saying that unless Muhammad Shafee could establish the allegation with facts, the question was irrelevant.

Akhtar disallowed the question and told Muhammad Shafee to move on.

Han also said he was not aware of the correspondences between Chia and Mahathir in

which Chia had explained the situation of Perwaja to Mahathir.

Asked whether he knew of a letter dated April 11, 1994, which Mahathir wrote to Chia, stating the Finance Ministry had informed Mahathir Perwaja had not paid a sum of RM79 million, the details of which were not revealed, Han said he did not.

Han also said he was not aware of a letter sent by Chia to Mahathir replying to allegations against him by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim over the alleged mismanagement of Perwaja.

Asked if he knew of a letter written by former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin on Chia being relieved of his post as the Perwaja managing director and reappointed as adviser on the advice of Mahathir, Han said he was not aware of it.

"In the course of your investigation, were you aware Chia had filed civil suits against NKK Corporation and also Lim Guan Eng, *The Malay Mail* and its reporter Eddie Chua for defamation?" asked Muhammad Shafee.

Han replied he did not know. Akhtar asked if the suits were filed before or after Chia was charged in court with CBT.

Muhammad Shafee, after checking with Chia, said the cases were filed earlier.

"I am putting it to you, the investigation against Chia was unfairly conducted," said Muhammad Shafee, to which Han disagreed.

The trial was adjourned to today for the prosecution to re-examine Han.