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## Najib, Dr M and Pak Lah may be called as witnesses

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his predecessors Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi are among the witnesses Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik intends to call should his defence be called in his trial over the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) scandal.

Lawyer Wong Kian Kheong told the court that if Dr Ling was asked to enter his defence, he also intended to call some 10 other Cabinet ministers around the year 2002, and former Special Economic adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman.

This came about after the prosecution had wrapped up its case against the former Transport Minister yesterday, and offered 113 witnesses to the defence.

The 10 others are Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, Tan Sri Leo Moggie, Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

On calling Najib, Wong explained that this was because the Prime Minister had chaired the Cabinet meeting at which a retrospective approval was made to increase the budget for the purchase of 404ha land in Pulau Indah from RM1.088bil to RM4.6bil.

The court then fixed Dec 12 and Dec 13 for the parties to present their submissions before a date is fixed for a decision.

Wong applied to recall Supt R. Rajagopal, the investigating officer in the case, as he had

recently received new documents which were referred to in documents handed to the defence on Wednesday.

During the cross-examination, Rajagopal was shown PKA's Annual Report for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 and he confirmed that he had in his possession the Auditor-General's report on PKA's accounts for the same three years, which reflected the accounts stated in the Annual Reports, but those documents were not given to the defence.

In those annual reports, Rajagopal agreed that the Auditor-General was aware and had clearly stated in his report that PKA had bought the land for RM1.81bil in 2002 inclusive of the 7.5% interest rate. And as PKA was a statutory body under the Port Authorities Act, its accounts have to be approved by Cabinet and tabled in Parliament every year.

Dr Ling has claimed trial to an amended principal charge of deceiving the Government by not exposing to the Cabinet an additional interest rate of 7.5% annually in the purchase of the land for the PKFZ project.

He faces two optional charges of cheating the Government by not revealing to the Cabinet facts pertaining to the interest rate, and deceiving it into believing that facts on the land, bought at RM25 psf and 7.5% interest, were certified and agreed to by the Valuation and Property Services Department when he knew there was no such consent.

Dr Ling is said to have committed the offences at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya between Sept 25 and Nov 6, 2002.