

# Dr M: Ling performed his duties well

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as a minister well.

“As far as I know, he (Ling) is an honest man.” said Mahathir.

Asked by Wong if he thought Ling was capable of cheating the government, Mahathir replied: “No, he is not capable of cheating the government.”

Lead prosecutor Datuk Tun Majid Tun Hamzah objected to the question.

“How would the ex-PM know if (Ling) could cheat the government? Only he (Ling) would know if he is capable of cheating the government!” Tun Majid said, raising his voice as Ling’s supporters booed him.

Justice Datuk Ahmadi Asnawi then adjourned the hearing and set Dec 4 for case mention, pending the outcome of the defence’s representation to the AG’s Cham-

bers to drop the charges against Ling, who is also former MCA president.

Ling, 69, is accused of failing to reveal facts regarding an interest of 7.5% per year, in addition to the cost of the land which was priced at RM25 psf.

Ling is also accused of intentionally concealing the actual land price of RM21 psf “special value” as stated in the Land Valuation and Property Services Department (JPPH) report dated Sept 29, 2000.

He faces one principal charge and two alternative charges under Sections 417 and 418 of the Penal Code of deceiving the cabinet by withholding details of the terms and conditions agreed between land owners Kuala Dimensi Sdn Bhd and the Port Klang Authority.