

**'Dr Mahathir should have given evidence'**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should have been called by prosecution to testify in the cheating case of former Transport Minister Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, the High Court heard yesterday.

Dr Ling's counsel Wong Kian Kheong said at the time of the alleged offence, Dr Mahathir was the prime minister.

He added that Dr Mahathir was also the Minister of Finance and Minister of Special Functions.

This was one of the main points highlighted by Wong when submitting at the end of the prosecution's case in the trial connected to the Port Klang Free Zone project.

"Documentary evidence also showed Dr Mahathir's personal and active role in the project," said Wong.

Dr Ling was charged with cheating the government by his failure to disclose the 7.5 per cent interest element imposed on the property.

The charge stated that due to the imposition of the interest, PKA paid landowner Kuala Dimensi Sdn Bhd RM1.808 billion or RM25 psf while the Valuation and Property Service Department recommended RM1.088 billion.

The alleged offences were committed at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya between Sept 25 and Nov 6, 2002.

The trial began on Aug 1.

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