

## **PKR wants MACC probe on Maxis over telco graft scandal**

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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 — PKR wants the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate tycoon T. Ananda Krishnan and right-hand man Ralph Marshall over allegations of criminal conspiracy involving telecommunication giants Maxis and India's Aircel.

The opposition party's lawmakers said the MACC should act to maintain the credibility of Malaysian businesses since Indian investigators have filed a case against Ananda, Marshall and a former Indian telecom minister and his brother.

"This will show that Malaysia does not tolerate corruption by its citizens committed anywhere in the world," Selayang MP William Leong Jee Keen told reporters today.

PKR vice president Chua Tian Chang added that the MACC should launch a probe to uncover more information as "it is our responsibility to cooperate with foreign countries to combat graft."

State news agency Press Trust of India said three companies, including Maxis, have also been listed in the case. The other companies are Ananda Krishnan-controlled Astro and India's Sun TV.

The former Indian minister is Dayanidhi Maran and his brother Kalanidhi. India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted raids yesterday at the premises of the Maran brothers in Delhi and Chennai.

It has been alleged by former Aircel chief C. Sivasankaran that Dayanidhi Maran as the then-telecom minister favoured the Maxis group in the takeover of his company and in return, investments were made by the company through the Astro network into Sun TV, which is owned by the Maran family.

According to the New Indian Express, Sivasankaran said his applications for licences were rejected when Maran was telecom minister in 2006, forcing him to sell his company to Maxis.

Later, Maran is alleged to have granted 14 licences to Aircel during his tenure as telecom minister. The allegations have been refuted by Maran.

The CBI, in its recent status report to the Supreme Court, had said that during Maran's tenure there was "deliberate delay" to provide a letter of intent to Sivasankaran.

The agency had said that after Aircel was sold to Maxis, investments were made by the Malaysian firm into the family business of the Marans.

Ananda Krishnan's Maxis owns 74 per cent of Aircel. Marshall is also a director of Maxis.

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