

PKA did not lodge report against Ling, court told
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 — The Port Klang Authority (PKA) did not lodge a police report against Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik over the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) project, the High Court was told today.

Upon repeated questioning by Dr Ling's counsel Wong Kian Kheong, former PKA chairman Datuk Lee Hwa Beng confirmed that no police report had ever been filed against the ex-transport minister.

Lee also said he had never asked the police to investigate Dr Ling for his role in the PKFZ project.

On August 11, 2009 Lee had lodged a police report against PKFZ turnkey developer Kuala Dimensi Sdn Bhd and the development's appointed consultant BTA Architect, alleging irregularities in the project.

Back then, the Special Task Force to look into the legal and financial aspects of the scandal-hit PKFZ found disputed claims amounting to at least RM500 million.

Today, Wong pointed out that his client's name was not mentioned in the report, and that even auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) did not recommend any form of action against Dr Ling.

Wong: When you were chairman of PKA, appointed PwC to investigate PKFZ case, can you confirm that (the) PwC report didn't recommend any action against Tun Ling?

Lee: Yes.

Lee also said that lawyers hired by PKA to look into the PKFZ case had never once suggested that legal action should be taken against Dr Ling for the government's losses in the project.

Dr Ling was charged in July last year with knowingly deceiving the Cabinet into approving the land purchase for the PKFZ, which resulted in wrongful losses for the government.

The prosecution has argued that the additional interest of 7.5 per cent per annum, amounting to some RM720 million, had pushed PKA's land purchase from RM1.09 billion to RM1.88 billion for the port project.

Dr Ling, a former MCA president, also faces two alternative charges of deceiving the Cabinet into believing that the purchase at RM25 psf and the 7.5 per cent interest rate were acknowledged and agreed to by the government's Valuation and Property Services Department (JPPH) despite knowing that there was no such agreement.

Dr Ling faces up to seven years' jail and a fine if convicted of the principal charge under Section 418 of the Penal Code.

Hearing resumes this afternoon.

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