

## **Liong Sik defence says not given key land buy papers**

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**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 — Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik's lawyers today said they were not supplied with crucial documents relating to a breakdown of the total land acquisition costs for the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) project.

Lead defence counsel Wong Kian Kheong said he only today discovered the documents were not given to his team — an issue he made clear during a gruelling cross-examination of the investigating officer in the case, Supt R. Rajagopal.

Wong proceeded to demand the documents, namely: the Port Klang Authority's (PKA) annual report for the financial year of 2003, the PKA's audited accounts of the same year, as well as complete Cabinet meeting minutes (April 6, April 13, April 20, 2005 and July 4, 2007) pertaining to the PKFZ project.

"Based on the documents and reports, the audit will show the land acquisition costs of the PKFZ project shown to the Cabinet.

"I was not shown the annual report and audited report of 2003; it would show (details) on the acquisition," Wong said today.

Prosecutors later provided Dr Ling's lawyers with four out of the five documents.

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 Port Klang Authority's (PKA) land purchase from RM1.09 billion to RM1.88 billion for the port project.

The 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.

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