

Ling Ordered To Enter Defence
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KUALA LUMPUR, Mac 9 (Bernama)-- The High Court here Friday ordered former transport minister Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik to enter his defence on the charge of cheating the Malaysian government RM1.08 billion over the Port Klang Free Zone project (PKFZ).

Judge Datuk Ahmadi Asnawi made the order after he concluded that the prosecution had successfully established a prima facie case against Dr Ling.

Dr Ling, 69, who was transport minister for 17 years since 1986, is charged with cheating the government by not disclosing to the Cabinet an additional interest rate of 7.5 per cent per annum on the purchase price of the land for the PKFZ project, which had been fixed at RM1,088,456,000 by the Valuation and Property Services Department, based on RM25 per sq ft, inclusive of the coupon/interest rate.

He also faces two alternative (amended) charges, of cheating and intentionally not disclosing to the Cabinet that the 7.5 per cent per annum was an additional interest rate on the land price.

Dr Ling, represented by counsel Wong Khian Keong, is charged with committing the offences at the fourth floor of the Prime Minister's Office, Perdana Putra building in Putrajaya, between Sept 25 and Nov 6, 2002.

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