

PKFZ RCI if Pakatan comes to power, says Kit Siang
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By Shannon Teoh

PETALING JAYA, April 17 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) will form a royal commission of inquiry (RCI) into the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) scandal if it takes over Putrajaya in the next general election, Lim Kit Siang pledged today.

The DAP parliamentary leader said that many culprits named in former Port Klang Authority (PKA) chairman Datuk Lee Hwa Beng's book, launched this morning, had yet to be brought to justice in the "can of worms and swamp of crocodiles" which could cost taxpayers up to RM12.5 billion.

"The PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) audit report into the PKFZ, made public on May 28, 2009, was most unsatisfactory as its terms of reference were restricted to 'a position review' instead of a wide-ranging inquiry.

Lim speaking at the launch of Lee's book in Kuala Lumpur on April 17, 2012. — Picture by Choo Choy May

"Only a RCI, where previous transport ministers, PKA chairmen and board members, as well as the relevant government officials are summoned to testify on their role can do justice for accountability and integrity in the mother of all scandals," Lim said at the launch of "PKFZ: A Nation's Trust Betrayed".

The Ipoh Timor MP added that although Datuk Seri Najib Razak had in May 2009 directed then Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat, who also spoke at the launch, to answer all questions on PKFZ, "no satisfactory answers had been forthcoming" up to today.

"RM12.5 billion is not chicken feed. It can be used to build 25 universities at RM500 million each, 125 hospitals at RM100 million each, 1,250 schools at RM10 million each, 312,500 low-cost houses at RM40,000 each or give everyone of the 27 million Malaysians regardless of age a payout of RM338," he said.

The project, initially estimated at RM1.1 billion after it was mooted by then Transport Minister Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik in 1997, more than quadrupled to RM4.6 billion by 2007.

A position review by top accounting firm PwC revealed in 2009 that the total cost including interest from debt repayments could reach RM12.5 billion.

Since December 2009, six individuals have been charged in court including ex-MCA president Dr Ling and his successor as transport minister, former MCA deputy chief Tan Sri Chan Kong Choy, who are both accused of lying to the Cabinet.

But Lee, the MCA's former Subang Jaya assemblyman, told The Malaysian Insider in a recent interview this was "just the tip of the iceberg."

He said more would be revealed through the "money trail" if a corruption charge was ever

brought to court or if there was a change in government as a new transport minister and PKA chief would not be obstructed by vested interest.

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