

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

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Construction of berths at Karachi Port

KARACHI: The Federal Tax Ombudsman, Dr Shoaib Suddle, has summoned officials of FBR, KPT and a construction company today (Saturday) in connection with the recovery of Rs1.11 billion, including fines, after the initial hearing of a case of looting of Rs500 million from the national exchequer in the construction of five berths at the Karachi Port.

The Transparency International (TI) had submitted solid documentary proof of corruption to the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Federal Tax Ombudsman, Chairman Public Accounts Committee and Chairman NAB. The TI had stated that the consortium undertaking the construction of berth numbers 10 to 14 at the Karachi Port had secured Rs112 million from the national exchequer in connivance with government officials under the head of GST refund. Proof of the transaction is available in the record of FBR, KPT and banks. Pointing to other similar cases, the TI has referred to the statements of former chairman FBR and finance minister Shaukat Tarin that disclose progressive corruption of Rs350 to 500 billion. In the allegation, the involvement of several elements, including politicians, were pointed out. The TI says many other cases are also under probe and will be revealed along with solid proof.