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Court-EIA

DEVELOPER FINED FOR STARTING PROJECT WITHOUT DOE APPROVAL

KUANTAN, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- A developer was fined RM3,500 by the Sessions Court here today for starting a holiday resort project without waiting for approval of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report.

Judge Ahmad Nasfy Yassin made the judgement after Tadmansori Hotel Resort Sdn Bhd based in Kuala Lumpur admitted committing the offence through its official representative Mohd Sarji Omar.

The accused pleaded guilty to starting the project, a holiday resort complex with more than 80 rooms by the beach in the marine park area, at Lot H.S. (M) 310, Mukim Tioman at 11am on Sept 5, 1995, without getting the EIA report approval from the Director General of the Department of Environment (DOE).

The charge was made under Section 34 (A) of the Environmental Quality Act (Amendment) 1985 which carries a fine not exceeding RM10,000 or a two-year jail term or both if found guilty.

According to the facts of the case, the developer was found committing the offence by two Pahang Department of Environment (DOE) Assistant Environment Controllers, Kamaruddin Ismail and Mohd Suhaimi Abdullah who inspected the site on the day stated.

Mahathir Abdullah, counsel for the developer, pleaded for leniency in view that the developer had pleaded guilty to the charge.

He said the developer started the project without prior approval to escape the monsoon season and since then had ceased work on the project.

Prosecuting officer Afandi Abdul Manap however, asked for an appropriate sentence because the developer had violated the Environmental Quality Act.

He also produced several shots of construction work at the complex.

Mohd Sarji admitted the photographs were of the complex.

--BERNAMA

AZ ARA AAM