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Council may take legal action against developer

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Ampang Jaya Municipal Council will consider taking legal action against the developer of the Ukay Perdana housing project for failure to comply with the council's ruling on earthworks.

Council president Abdul Karim Munisar said the decision was reached during the council's meeting today.

"The councillors have seriously recommended that legal action be taken against the developer, Projek Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd, for contravening the ruling on earthworks which had been approved by the council," he told a Press conference after the council meeting.

He said the developer could be charged under section 70(A) of the Street Drainage and Building Act 1974 for contravening rulings with regard to earthworks at the project site.

The Act carries a RM50,000 fine or five years' jail, or both.

Abdul Karim said the stop-work order issued to the developer last Wednesday would only be lifted once the council was satisfied with remedial works carried out at the site.

He said the council was also waiting for a report from the developer on its reforestation plans.

"At the moment, they should construct silt traps at every water outlet on the project site as specified under the approved earthwork layout plan.

"Close turfing on hill slopes should also be made to prevent further soil erosion," he said.

Abdul Karim also said the council, through its engineering department would increase supervision in the area apart from other projects being developed under its jurisdiction.

Projek Ikatan Rapi came under fire last week for indiscriminate felling of trees and levelling of land on a 82.8ha piece of land, out of 138ha earmarked for a housing project near Bukit Antarabangsa.

Abdul Karim said work to clear another 55.2ha could not be done until the stop-work order was lifted.

He said the developer started land clearing work in January after the council had approved the layout and earthworks plan on March 19 and July 30, 1996 respectively.

However, he said a check by the council's engineering department on March 5 found that the developer had violated the terms specified under the approved plans.

On March 12, he said, the council summoned both the developer and its contractor for a meeting where they were told verbally to stop all earthwork and carry out remedial work on exposed land to curb soil erosion.

On March 24, the company told the council that it had carried out remedial work.

However, Abdul Karim said the council was not satisfied with the works done when they went for a site inspection the next day and proceeded to issue the stop-work order.

Coincidentally, the order came following a Cabinet directive to the Housing and Local Government Ministry to investigate massive land clearing work in Selangor.

The Cabinet instruction came after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spotted the clearing work from a helicopter last week.

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