

25 JUL 1997

Court-EIA

COURT FIXES AUG 8 FOR MENTIONING OF EIA CASE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- The Sessions Court here today fixed Aug 8 to mention the case involving the developer of Ukay Perdana housing project charged with three counts of flouting conditions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Judge Hue Siew Khen adjourned the case after granting a request for another mention date by defence counsel Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, who is representing Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd.

In his application, Shafee said there was a possibility that the case might be settled without any trial proceedings.

On June 6, Ikatan Rapi, represented by its director Suhaimy Husin pleaded not guilty to the charge of failing to furnish sufficient proof that three conditions attached to the EIA report pertaining to prescribed activities were being complied with at its project site.

The conditions were related to topography, felling of trees, exposed slopes and suspended solid level.

Ikatan Rapi, owned by Capital Advance Consolidated Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Larut Consolidated Bhd, is alleged to have committed the offences at Lot 1341, Hulu Klang, at about 12 noon on Jan 20.

The developer is charged under Section 34A (7) of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Amendment 1996) which carries a maximum fine of RM100,000 or five years' jail or both, upon conviction.

The environmental damage at the project site came to light after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spotted the bare hill at the project site from a helicopter.

The Cabinet subsequently directed the Housing and Local Government Ministry to investigate the land clearing works at the site.

-- BERNAMA

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