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DOE files charges against Projek Ikatan Rapi

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Department of Environment has filed charges against the developer of the controversial Ukay Perdana housing project in Hulu Klang for allegedly flouting environmental regulations.

It is learnt that the charges were filed at the Ampang Sessions Court recently by the Selangor DOE. The case will be mentioned on June 6.

It was reported last month that the DOE was given the green light by the deputy public prosecutor to charge the developer, Projek Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd.

However, the DOE did not divulge details of the charges.

In March, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding had said that the developer would be taken to court for failure to comply with four environmental impact assessment conditions.

He said the developer had carried out construction on slopes of more than 20 degrees gradient although it was not allowed to do so; failed to carry out mitigative and stabilisation works on slopes it had cut, to maintain its silt trap and to submit plans before carrying out earthworks as required by law.

Law said the developer would be charged under the Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 1987 of the Environmental Quality Act.

The developer is liable to a maximum fine of RM100,000 or five years' jail, or both.

The environmental degradation at the project site was highlighted after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spotted the bare hill from a helicopter last month.

The Cabinet subsequently directed the Housing and Local Government Ministry to investigate the land clearing works and the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council issued a stop-work order to Projek Ikatan Rapi.

The developer was directed to take remedial steps, including building more silt traps and carrying out slope turfing.

On April 3, Projek Ikatan Rapi had pledged to plant some 12,000 trees at the site in six months.

It was part of the remedial measures proposed to the State Government and the council.

Projek Ikatan Rapi had also proposed to give the Selangor Government a bank guarantee of RM5 million which would be forfeited if they failed to meet the six-month target.

Meanwhile, DOE director-general Tan Meng Leng said today the department was drafting charges against a lorry driver caught transporting scheduled waste without a licence at Bangi Lama, Kajang, last month.

The charges may be filed under the Environmental Quality Regulations (Scheduled Waste) 1989.

The driver was detained and the lorry impounded by a DOE team on April 11.

The waste was believed to have been taken from a factory in the Nilai industrial area.

The driver was on his way to dispose of the cargo when he was intercepted by a joint team from the Negri Sembilan and Selangor DOEs.

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