

26 JUL 1997

DOE-settlement

DOE WILL NOT ENTERTAIN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- The Department of Environment (DOE) said today that it will not entertain out-of-court settlement with anyone charged with committing offence under the Environmental Quality Act 1974.

Its director general, Tan Meng Leng said that once a case had been filed in court, any applications to withdraw the case could only be decided by the Public Prosecutor.

"The department has no jurisdiction nor a part in the matter. We are only responsible for the investigation and prosecution of the accused in court," he said in a statement issued here.

He was commenting on today's report in several newspapers that the case of a housing developer in Hulu Klang was put off to allow for a settlement with the department.

Projek Ikatan Rapi Sdn Berhad was charged in court on June 6 for failing to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for its Ukay Perdana project in Hulu Klang.

The Sessions Court yesterday postponed the case to Aug 8 on the request of counsel for the housing developer.

The counsel Muhammad Shafie Abdullah said they needed the time to make some resolution with the prosecution.

Action was taken against the housing developer soon after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked the Housing and Local Government Ministry to investigate large scale opening of land in Selangor.

-- BERNAMA

WNZ ABG