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Ting-Investigation

JOINT INVESTIGATION INTO CASE OF DEVELOPER WHO DENUDED HILL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) -- A joint investigation will take off soon into a case of extensive clearing of land at Bukit Antarabangsa, Hulu Kelang, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

He said the investigation would involve his ministry, the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, Department of Environment and the Drainage and Irrigation Department.

The developer involved had been ordered to stop work and to submit to the local council the remedial steps to be taken to comply with the rules and regulations, he told reporters in response to newspapers reports on the extensively clearing of land in that area.

"We need to look into the conditions which had been laid down by the authority to the developer before it started work. We need to get details first before proceeding with any action, including court proceedings, if the developer had flouted the law," he said after opening a seminar on the latest tree transplanting technology in Subang.

Dr Ting said the stop-work order against the company, Projek Ikatan Rapi, was considered a penalty because this could affect the completion date of the project as stated in the sales and purchase agreement.

Last Tuesday Dr Ting said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed an investigation into a development project which had denuded and flattened a hill in Selangor.

Dr Mahathir made the directive upon spotting an extensive land clearing in Selangor from a helicopter last week while returning from Taman Negara, Kuala Tahan, Pahang.

On preserving and transplanting trees, Dr Ting has proposed that all developers provide a "Tree Bank" at their worksite as a temporarily place to store trees which would be transplanted once the project was completed.

Although this was not a regulation, he said, developers must adopt the attitude and adhere to the government's policy on preserving trees.

He reminded developers that it was an offence to cut down trees and that enforcement officers from the local authorities would carry out checks regularly at worksites to ensure that they did not flout the law. --

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