

11 SEP 1997

Court-EIA

NOV 5 HEARING FOR DEVELOPER FACING EIA CHARGES

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- The Sessions Court here today fixed two days beginning Nov 5 for hearing of the case in which the developer of the Ukay Perdana housing project is charged with three counts of violating conditions attached to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

Judge Hue Siew Kheng made the decision after counsel for Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd, Mohd Shafee Abdullah asked the court to fix another date for the case either for mention of the case or for hearing.

In requesting for another date, Mohd Shafee said that he would be submitting another letter concerning some issues to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

He said he had submitted a letter to the Attorney-General's Chambers in August pertaining to certain representations and now wanted to submit a detailed one, adding that he was unable to submit the letter earlier as he was overseas.

Earlier, Deputy Public Prosecutor from the Selangor Department of Environment, Khiruddin Mohd Idris informed the court that he had received instructions to proceed with the case.

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

The conditions were related to the project site's topography, felling of trees, exposed slopes and suspended solid level.

Ikatan Rapi which is 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, about 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 if convicted.

The environment degradation at the project site was highlighted 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

JA AAM