

08 AUG 1997

Court-EIA

SEPT 11 MENTION FOR DEVELOPER FACING EIA CHARGES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The developer of the Ukay Perdana housing project charged with three counts of flouting conditions attached to its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report will have his case mentioned in the Sessions Court here on Sept 11.

Judge Hue Siew Khen today granted an application for another mention date by counsel Cheong Wee Wong who appeared on behalf of Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, counsel for Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd.

He said his party had made certain representations to the Attorney-General's Chambers and was currently awaiting a reply.

On June 6, Ikatan Rapi, represented by its director Suhaimy Husin, pleaded not guilty to failing to provide sufficient proof that three conditions attached to the EIA 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 year's jail, or both, if convicted.

The environmental 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.

Deputy public prosecutor from the Selangor Department of Environment Khirudding Mohamed Idris prosecuted. -- BERNAMA

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