

22 DEC 1997

Court-EIA

UKAY PERDANA DEVELOPER FINED M20,000

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- The developer of the Ukay Perdana housing project was fined RM20,000 by the Sessions Court here today after it pleaded guilty to breaching a condition relating to its environmental impact assessment report.

Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd, represented by its director, Suhaimy Husin, pleaded guilty to having solid substance at double the level of 50 mg/l level permitted the EIA report at its project site.

Ikatan Rapi, owned by Capital Advance Consolidated Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Larut Consolidated Bhd, committed the offence at Lot 13431, Mukim of Hulu Klang, Gombak district, Selangor, at noon on Jan 20 this year.

The company was earlier charged with three counts of failing to furnish proof that three conditions of the EIA including on topography, tree felling and exposed slopes had been adhered to at the project site.

However, the court gave it a discharge not amounting to acquittal in respect of the other two charges on application by the prosecution.

Deputy public prosecutor Hasila Awang told the court that the Selangor Department of Environment investigated the project site following complaints about the problems posed by the felling of trees in the area.

A water sample taken from the retention pond showed the solid substance to exceed the permitted level.

Hasila asked for a deterrent sentence to serve as a lesson to other developers because of the serious implications on the environment.

In mitigation, defence counsel Muhammad Shafee Abdullah asked for a lenient sentence because it was the company's first offence.

He said the company had suffered RM1 million losses because it had to delay the project for five months.

The charge under section 34A(7) of the Environmental Quality (Amendment) Act 1974 carries a maximum RM100,000 fine or five years jail, or both, on conviction

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

Judge Hue Siew Kheng gave the company until tomorrow to pay the fine.

-- BERNAMA

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