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Ukay Perdana developer pleads not guilty to flouting EIA conditions

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The developer of the Ukay Perdana housing project in Hulu Klang - Ikatan Rapi Sdn Bhd - pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court today to three counts of flouting conditions attached to its Environmental Impact Assessment report.

The developer, represented by its director Suhaimy Husin, was charged with failing to provide sufficient proof that three conditions attached to the report, concerning prescribed activities, were being complied with at its project site located at Lot 13431, Hulu Klang, about 12 noon on Jan 20.

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

Owned by Capital Advance Consolidated Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Larut Consolidated Bhd, Ikatan Rapi was charged under Section 34A (7) of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Amendment 1996) which carries a maximum fine of RM100,000 or imprisonment of up to five years or both.

The court, fixed July 25 for mention of the case, after an application by defence counsel Cheong Wee Wong. Khiruddin Mohd Idris, from the Selangor Department of Environment, prosecuted before Judge Hue Siew Kheng.

Ikatan Rapi came under fire recently for indiscriminate felling of trees and levelling of land on a 82.8ha piece of land, out of 138ha earmarked for the project near Bukit Antarabangsa.

The environment degradation at the project site was highlighted after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spotted the bare hill (project site) from a helicopter.

The Cabinet subsequently directed the Housing and Local Government Ministry to investigate the land clearing works while the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council issued a stop-work order to the developer.

It was directed to take remedial steps, including building more silt traps and carrying out slope turfing.

On April 3, Ikatan Rapi also pledged to plant some 12,000 trees at the site within six months.

It was part of the remedial measures proposed to the State Government and the council. Ikatan Rapi also proposed to give the Selangor Government a bank guarantee of RM5 million to be forfeited if it failed to meet the six-month target.

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