

# Company ordered to pay RM1.15m to 53 workers

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues:** The Ipoh industrial court has ordered a manufacturing company to pay RM1.153 million to 53 of its former workers who were not informed of the company's decision to cease operations.

Court chairman Zura Yahya ordered the Ipoh-based company, S.P. Marble Sdn Bhd, which ceased operations two years ago, to pay the amount to the workers within six weeks of the award, handed down on Thursday.

Each worker will receive between RM13,225.20 and RM38,831.58 depending on their positions, salary grades and seniority.

In her decision, Zura said the court heard the case ex-parte as the company was absent despite having been given sufficient notice of the dates of the hearing that had been postponed since August 1999.

"Since no one from the company was present to rebut the claimants' evidence, their case stands uncontroverted," said Zura.

She said the company informed the Non-Metallic Mineral Products Manufacturing Employees' Union that it would cease its operations on March 1, 1999.

The union's general secretary then told the company to write to the claimants individually, notifying them of the closure but this was not carried out.

Zura said that the workers were right to have claimed constructive dismissal since the company failed to give instructions to them regarding their duties when they reported for work between March 1 and 4, 1999.

She said the company had also breached a fundamental term of the employment contract when it did not inform each of the claimants of its decision to cease operations.