

Companies fined for polluting two rivers

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KUALA LUMPUR: Two companies were fined a total of RM65,000 by the Sessions Court in Ampang for discharging effluents above the permissible level.

Judge Noradidah Ahmad fined a textile company, First Elastik Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, RM40,000 after its director Tan Wah Ching pleaded guilty to committing the offence at its premises at Lot 4, Jalan Perusahaan 3, Beranang Industrial Area in Beranang at 12.50pm on June 30, 2004.

In mitigation, counsel P. Shaileshri said this was the company's first offence.

She said the company had spent RM26,254 on a system to treat the waste and the offence occurred due to a technical fault.

Heiwa Giken (M) Sdn Bhd, an electro-plating company, was fined RM25,000 after its director Yong Yoon Meng pleaded guilty to discharging three types of effluents at its

premises at No 2, Jalan P/5, Kawasan MIEL in Bandar Baru Bangi at 9.50am on April 29, 2005.

Yong, in mitigation, also said it was the company's first offence and attributed the offence to technical fault.

Department of Environment prosecuting officer Nurhuda Salam, who prosecuted in both cases, had pressed for a heavy fine to act as deterrent.

She said First Elastic was located near Sungai Semenyih, which leads to the Sungai Buah dam.

This dam, she said, supplied water to residents in the Dengkil and Putrajaya area.

"Heiwa Giken's offence also threatens the lives of 70,000 residents in the Banting, Olak Lempit, Bukit Changgang, Sri Cheeding, Jajarom, Sungai Rambai and Telok Datok areas, as the factory is located downstream of Sungai Langat, leading to the Puncak Niaga Bukit Tampoi dam," she said.

Both paid the fines.

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*Nurhuda Salam,
Department of Environment
prosecuting officer*

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