

Court of Appeal told NHDA violated interim order

By Chitra Weeraratne

Mr. Hiran de Alwis, counsel for a resident-petitioner of Zone 6, of the National Housing Scheme of Raddolugama, on Tuesday told the Court of Appeal that the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) has violated an interim order imposed on the NHDA, by the Court of Appeal.

The petitioner in this case is Stanley Felix Rufus Lloyd Perera of National Housing Complex, Raddolugama. The petitioner had complained that the NHDA has decided to hand over a block of land reserved for the Zone 6, as re-creational and environmental land, to the ownership of some outside party. The petition said that the residents of Zone 6,

had used this land for over 15 years, and if it is handed over to a third party, the residents of Zone 6 will not have land for recreation and for promotion of environmental conditions. The Zone 6 could experience a major flood as well, if this reservation land is used for other purposes.

The petition requested the Court of Appeal to order the NHDA to declare that this reservation land is allocated to the residents of Zone 6 of the housing scheme. The Court of Appeal in June this year had issued notice of this application on the respondents, the National Housing Development Authority and the Attorney General.

Court also granted interim relief by

restraining the NHDA for some time from handing over this land to any outside parties.

The case was called before the Court of Appeal on August 24.

Mr. Hiran de Alwis who appeared for the petitioner said that the NHDA had violated the interim order.

Senior State Counsel Ms. M. Fernando told Court that long before the petitioner complained to Court, this reservation land had been handed over to a third party.

The respondents moved for further time to file objections to the petition. They were granted time till September 30, the next date of hearing of this case.