LOCAL NEWS

Prosecutors drop criminal case against environmental group over Puerto Barú

When	No date given
Where	David, Chiriquí
Source	prensa
Published	2026-11-01 14:33-05:00
Discovered	2026-11-01 17:00-05:00
Link	https://www.prensa.com/politica/fiscalia-archiva-denuncia-penal-contra-el-ciam-por-el-caso-puerto-baru/

Summary

Panama's Public Ministry shelved the criminal complaint filed by the developer of the $260 million Puerto Barú port project in David against the environmental group CIAM, finding no crime was committed.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that prosecutors have archived the criminal complaint brought by Ocean Pacific Financial Services Corp., promoter of the Puerto Barú port project in David, against the Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (CIAM). In a resolution signed on 23 October 2026, prosecutor José Vega Coronado found the group's actions did not amount to crimes against economic security or to slander, noting that the General Environment Law obliges anyone to report possible environmental harm. The dispute began after CIAM filed a constitutional challenge against MiAmbiente's approval of the port's environmental impact study, warning of damage to David's mangroves. The decision can be appealed. Separately, the Supreme Court's Third Chamber recently found that environmental groups suing to annul the project's category III environmental study did not prove illegality or any overlap with mangroves. A civil suit by the developer against CIAM and Adopta Bosque continues, and a precautionary freeze on the groups' bank accounts and assets remains in force. Puerto Barú represents a $260 million investment; another challenge to the environmental study, filed by the firm Cornejo y Robles, is still pending.

Original (es)

Fiscalía archiva denuncia penal contra el CIAM por el caso Puerto Barú

El CIAM afirmó que el archivo reconoce su derecho a denunciar posibles daños ambientales.

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