KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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PROTECTING JUNGLES

200 RANGERS TO BE APPOINTED

They are trained to tackle encroachment, maintain wildlife habitats, says

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ANOTHER 200 forest rangers, including Orang Asli men, will be appointed this year to help keep encroachment under control as well as maintain wildlife habitats.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the additional rangers would be appointed as soon as possible.

Currently, he said the government had appointed more than 600 rangers with different expertise, including to protect forest reserves.

"The new 200 forest rangers, including from the Orang Asli community, will receive their appointment letters by the end of this month.

"Apart from the Orang Asli, the others were military and police veterans who have been given adequate training.

"The Orang Asli forest rangers were from several settlements in Gua Musang.

Apart from helping in controlling encroachment activities, they can also assist other agencies in maintaining natural wildlife habitats, especially for tigers, he added.

The Kota Baru MP said all forest rangers were trained and had the capability to handle cases to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

He added that these forest rangers would be given a special allowance, which enabled them to have a take-home pay of more than RM2,000 a month.



Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan

On the deployment of Senoi Praaq members of the General Operations Force (GOF) to assist Kelantan authorities in searching for the three tigers in Gua Musang, Takiyuddin said he believed the team was capable of handling the task.

"With their deployment to Orang Asli settlements in Gua Musang, the government is hoping that the tigers spotted in the settlements can be found," he added.

A total of 26 Senoi Praaq GOF members including an officer would be deployed to Kelantan to help track the tigers.

The team from the 3rd Battalion based in Perak would be in Kelantan for three weeks beginning this weekend.

Meanwhile, the family of the Orang Asli man who was fatally mauled by a tiger two weeks ago would receive assistance from the authorities, said Takiyuddin.

"The government will help the family of Anek Along, who died in the attack. I will visit the family soon to hand over the government's aid as well as other necessary assistance," he said.

On Jan 7, 59-year-old Anek died after he was mauled by a tiger at Kampung Sau near Pos Bihai, Gua Musang.

A team of wildlife rangers was deployed to track down the 120kg tiger, but they were forced to kill the big cat when it tried to attack them at 12.15pm.

The decision (to open fire) was made in line with Section 52 of the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 as the animal was a danger to human life.