KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES			
TARIKH	:	27/1/2022 (KHAMIS)	MUKA SURAT	:	3
JABATAN	:	JPNK			

NST 27.1.2022_3

'NOT SERIOUS'

Kelantan acknowledges illegal logging, but insists it doesn't affect tigers

KOTA BARU: The Kelantan government yesterday admitted that there was illegal logging in the state's permanent forest reserves.

However, Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah said the illegal logging cases were not as serious as in other states.

"There is illegal logging (in Kelantan).

"There are villagers who turn the encroached acreage into farms and plant durian and oil palm. They fell trees in forest reserves.

"By law, forest reserve encroachment is a no-no and we will not tolerate it. Action will be taken against offenders," he said after a state executive councillors meeting at Kota Darulnaim here.

It was reported that some people were encroaching on forest reserves for the purpose of development, selling the land at low prices to the public.

This is one of the modus operandi of syndicates involved in the encroachment detected by the Kelantan Forestry Department.

Amar said logging was not the cause of tigers entering Orang Asli villages in Gua Musang.

He said this perception was incorrect.

"Based on input from the state Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan), a tiger had roamed human settlements because it was sick.

"The tiger's condition forced it to scour for food in villages. It is not right to blame logging."

He said Perhilitan had been tracking three tigers that were still roaming near the village.

"Up to yesterday (Tuesday), Perhilitan still cannot detect the remaining tigers.

"There have been no signs of the animals encroaching on villages after one tiger was shot.

"We advise Orang Asli villagers against leaving the safety of their home until all the tigers are caught," he said.

"The authorities have given aid to the Orang Asli community to ensure their day to day life isn't disrupted."



Kelantan Forestry director Abdul Khalim Abu Samah destroying illegally planted oil palm trees at the Relai forest reserve in Gua Musang on Monday. BERNAMA PIC