KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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Move to protect forests

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State govts to enforce action on illegal land occupation next year

KUALA LUMPUR: The government, through the 79th National Land Council Meeting, has agreed to enforce actions and solutions made on illegal land occupation in the permanent forest reserves of Peninsular Malaysia, says Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

It was also agreed that all state governments should take similar actions by June 1, 2022.

The meeting was attended by 10 representatives from the Federal Government comprising senior ministers and the relevant ministers, mentris besar and chief ministers or their representatives, reported Bernama.

It was also agreed, in principle, that a 15-year moratorium be imposed on approvals for new forest plantations in permanent forest reserves in the peninsula.

"There are currently 127,050.25ha of forest plantation development zones in permanent forest reserves in the country that have yet to be approved to any company.

"Before the moratorium is imposed on these areas, state governments wishing to continue the development of forest plantations must conduct detailed consultations with the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

"This is to ensure that companies appointed comply with all conditions set out in their concession agreements and other relevant laws," he said in a statement yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the meeting also agreed that a Bill on the proposed amendments to Sections 11 and 12 of the National Forestry Act 1984 be tabled in Parliament in the first meeting of next year. The Bill was approved by the Attorney General's Chambers on Dec 3 last year and the Cabinet on Jan 6,

In that context, he said, enforcement of the Bill would only be applicable in the states after the respective state legislative assemblies amended their respective Forestry (Adoption) Enactment.