KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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No illegal logging near Tasik Kenyir, says Forestry Dept

HULU TERENGGANU: There is no illegal logging near Tasik Kenyir that could have caused Sunday's flood devastation, said the state Forestry Department.

Director Roslan Rani yesterday refuted allegations by some people, including netizens, who had shared false and unverified information about the floods on social media.

"Based on information from Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), the severity of the flood was caused by a landslide near the Sultan Mahmud Power Station (SJSM) in Kenyir on Sunday.

"The landslide occurred about the same time as a rainforest water surge (*kepala air*) that wiped out trees, dried logs, rubbish and tree branches.

"The rubbish, dried leaves, fallen logs and debris gathered at the bottom of the river, giving the public the impression that there was illegal logging," he told Bernama.

He said this after he inspected the landslide area around Jenagor Dam and Tasik Kenyir together with state Tourism, Culture and Digital Technology Committee chairman Ariffin Deraman and TNB representatives.



Roslan Rani

Roslan said the incident at Tasik Kenyir was similar to the one that happened in Bentong, Pahang, last year.

When asked about the department's remedial plans, he said it would send a drone to photograph the landslide for a clearer picture and location coordinates before mobilising support.

"We will map out the sites first before any action can be taken to prevent future incidents," he said.

TNB yesterday said SJSM's operations were temporarily closed from last Sunday due to damage to the high voltage transmission tower at the site.

The unusual heavy rain since last Friday had resulted in a landslide that also cut off the access road to SJSM at 4am the same day.

The sediment that flooded the station area then flowed into Sungai Terengganu, and six hours later, another landslide occurred that caused a bridge and the transmission tower to collapse here.

TNB stopped SJSM's operations, but said electricity supply to consumers would not be affected.

The system would be supplemented by electric from other sources, it said.