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LANDSLIDES

150 Orang Asli families affected

KOTA BARU: More than 150 Orang Asli families have been deeply affected by landslides and other forms of land destruction caused by human activities.

Kelantan/Terengganu Orang Asli Development Department deputy director Azman Ngatiton said the affected Orang Asli were those living in Gua Musang and other areas located near the Lojing highlands.

However, he said the fear and trauma they suffered was not as bad as the one they had faced during the huge floods in 2014.

"We (Jakoa) have identified families staying in the highly-affected areas. They will be the first to receive attention if any disaster occurs.

"Jakoa will do whatever necessary to help and bring their problems to the relevant departments and agencies," he said.

Orang Asli Atei Nasir, 46, who is from Kampung Kingkong, said his people would normally protest against the state govern-

ment if it failed to address their problems on time.

"Sometimes, some of us had to turn to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help us as we have no other choice," he said.

Housewife Midah Ngah, 41, hoped that the "nightmare" where her village was almost hit by landslide last month, would not happen again.

"My family and I have been having sleepless nights every time the rainy season hit our area. We do not want to lose our lives in this kind of disaster," said the mother of three from Kampung Jegjok.

The Orang Asli has been holding demonstrations against the state government for the past two years to show their unhappiness over illegal activities being carried out at their settlements.

In 2016, they set up a blockade to prevent loggers from entering their land in Gua Musang. The blockade lasted almost a year.