



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES		
TARIKH	:	13/4/2017	MUKA SURAT	: 5
JABATAN	:	JABATAN PERHUTANAN		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

FOREST RESOURCES

3 remanded over encroachment

BESUT: Three men, who were caught by the Forestry Department's enforcement unit in Gunung Tebu Forest Reserve with sawn logs worth RM10,000, have been remanded for three days to facilitate investigations.

State Forestry director Datuk Ahmad Fadzil Abd Majid said the men, aged between 25 and 44, were arrested during Op Belantara 1, which involved officers from the department and the army, who entered the encroached area on scrambler motorcycles.

"The operation at compartment 110 started at midnight yesterday (Tuesday) and the arrests were made at 6.30am.

"Those arrested were from nearby villages who entered the

area on two motorcycles, which we seized," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Fadzil said early investigations showed that about 10ha of the primary forest reserve had been encroached for a certain period.

"The trio will be charged under Sections 15 and 47 of the National Forestry Act 1984 for entering a forest reserve without permission and extracting forest resources. They face a minimum jail sentence of one year, a fine of RM500,000, or both, if found guilty."

Fadzil said similar operations would be held jointly with the army, which would provide protection against potential threats posed by armed illegal loggers at logging hotspots in the state.