



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	25/12/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	17
JABATAN	:	KATS / JPSM / PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>			

# Higher fee to protect park's biodiversity

THE Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry refers to Harban Singh's letter "Taman Negara needs much better care" (*The Star*, Dec 17). In the letter, Harban had raised concerns over several aspects pertaining to the management of Taman Negara Pahang and its surrounding areas.

One of the concerns raised was the increase of the entry price into Taman Negara Pahang. The current rates and related fees collected at Taman Negara Pahang have not been increased since the park's establishment in 1939.

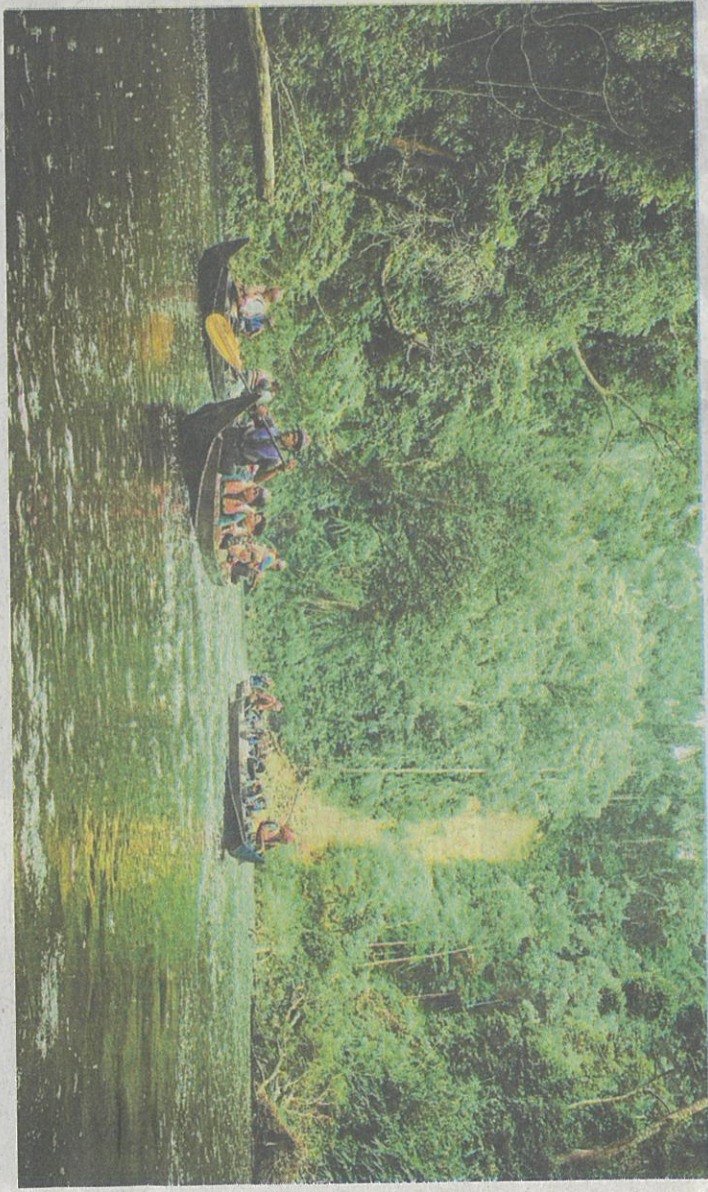
Due to high maintenance costs, many parties have suggested a revision be made to match current rates so the fees collected can be used to restore the country's biodiversity resources as well as for the conservation of biodiversity in the park area.

Discussions and meetings on the proposed entrance permit fee at Taman Negara Pahang were held earlier involving relevant parties including the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) before being brought for approval by the Pahang State Government Council Meeting (MMK).

Following research and discussions with various parties, MMK approved a new entrance fee to Taman Negara Pahang on Oct 16, 2019. Further notification of the new fee will be published as soon as the fee has been gazetted.

With regard to Harban's remarks on logging activities outside Taman Negara Pahang, this is beyond the jurisdiction of Perhilitan.

Currently, logging activities in areas adjacent to Taman Negara Pahang are controlled by the



Pahang state government through the Forestry Department and Director General of Lands and Mines Department, Pahang, with a buffer zone of at least 1.5km-2km, depending on the circumstances and location to conserve the environment and border security.

On the concern over the condition of Sungai Tembeling, it should be noted that the Health Ministry conducts water quality tests on the river every six months.

No reports of any contamination in the river were reported. However, Taman Negara Pahang has been engaging with local authorities through the Jerantut District Coordination Committee

Meeting platform in the event of water pollution in the river.

The department currently engages with the Environment Department as well as other relevant authorities in order to ensure a more coordinated and effective enforcement.

Taman Negara Pahang was declared one of the Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) since 2003. AHP represents efforts to conserve areas of particular biodiversity importance or exceptional uniqueness by member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Asean environmental ministers signed the Asean Declaration on Heritage Parks on Dec 18, 2003.

Asean member countries agreed that "common cooperation is necessary to conserve and manage AHP for the development and implementation of regional conservation and management action plans as well as regional mechanisms complementary to national efforts to implement conservation measures."

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity serves as the secretariat of the Asean Heritage Parks Programme. For more information, visit <https://environment.asean.org/asean-declaration-on-heritage-parks/>

**WATER, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRY**