



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Monoculture farms a threat to nature

SAM urges Kedah to stop plans that damage forest reserves

GEORGE TOWN: Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) has expressed frustration with the Kedah state government for continuing with policies to approve monoculture farms, including Musang King durian farms, in state forest reserves on a big scale, especially at Gunung Inas.

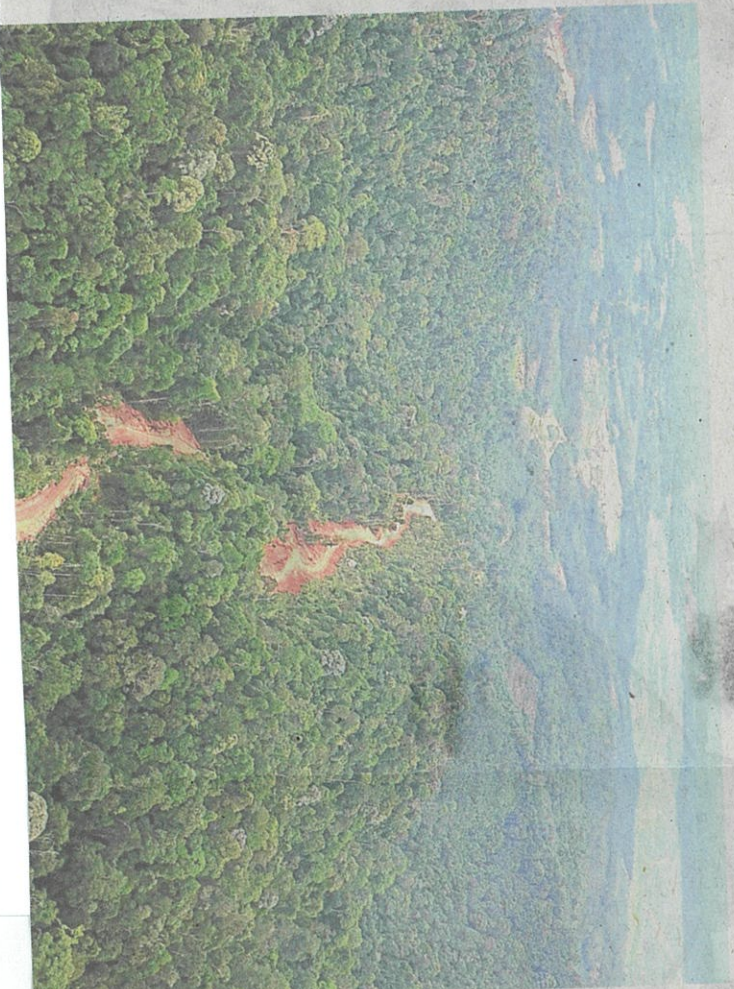
SAM president Meenakshi Raman said monoculture farms using timber extraction methods would destroy the original forest reserve, jeopardising its lifespan and diversity.

"Excessive timber degradation activities and the provision of uncontrolled sites during the implementation of monoculture farm development have an adverse impact on the environment.

"The state authority should understand that when Gunung Inas, which is part of the central forest spine and categorised as an environmentally sensitive area, is converted to other land uses, there will be an impact on the forest hydrology," she said in a recent statement.

Meenakshi said when soil is deprived of tree cover and exposed continuously to high rainfall, there will be excessive surface runoff, slope erosion, damage to river structures and deterioration of water quality.

She said although the implementation of the monoculture farm development at Gunung Inas had Environmental Impact Assessment



Calling for a halt: Villagers of Kampung Iboi and the surrounding areas near the Baling-Gerik border are pressing for the state government to cancel a Musang King durian plantation project in the Gunung Inas forest reserves.