



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES
TARIKH	:	3/10/2019
JABATAN	:	JPSM
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>



The state government halted logging activities in Hulu Perak earlier this year. PIC COURTESY OF PERAK MENTERI BESAR'S OFFICE

CLARIFICATION

# NO ILLEGAL LOGGING IN PERAK

**T**HE Perak Menteri Besar's Office wishes to clarify a letter by Mohd Hussin Ishak Sebi published by the *New Straits Times* online on Oct 1.

The writer has erroneously claimed that illegal logging existed on Orang Asli settlements with no action taken by the state administration.

The state wishes to make it clear that all logging permits issued are within the forest reserves in Perak, which do not involve any Orang Asli settlement. None of the land or area occupied by Orang Asli settlements had been encroached to make way for logging.

There is no illegal logging in the state. Only areas that have been approved and within the forest reserves are allowed to be logged.

The accusation is misleading and a distortion of facts. Despite this, the menteri besar has decided to halt all logging activities in areas disputed by the Orang Asli community in Sungai Papan, Hulu Perak, until matters relating to the concerns of the Orang Asli community have been amicably resolved.

This decision was reflected in a joint statement by the menteri besar and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department P. Waytha Moorthy on Aug 1.

The Perak government values the interests of the Orang Asli community as paramount and has gazetted almost 14,000ha of land for 70 Orang Asli settlements in the state under the Aboriginal People's Act 1954. These plots of land are mostly located in forest reserves, comprising Orang Asli settlements, farming land and roaming areas.

Since Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu took office last year, the state government has initiated the process to gazette an additional 5,176ha of land for another 27 Orang Asli settlements in Perak. This is the biggest area gazetted by any state in Peninsular Malaysia.

State government-linked companies have also been instructed to adopt Orang Asli settlements and carry out programmes to improve education, skills training, economic activities and other initiatives to improve their livelihood.

For the record, the menteri besar had halted logging activities in Hulu Perak earlier this year following reports of pollution in Sungai Rui.

The Perak government is open to suggestions and constructive criticisms to improve the wellbeing of the state and people.

PERAK MENTERI BESAR'S OFFICE