



KERATAN AKHBAR

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|------------|---|---|
| AKHBAR | : | THE STAR | | | |
| TARIKH | : | 5/12/2019 | MUKA SURAT | : | 2 |
| JABATAN | : | KATS | | | |
| KLASIFIKASI | : | PERHATIAN | | | |

RM5mil fine proposed for forest protection

KUALA LUMPUR: A whopping RM5mil fine has been proposed on those found to have unlawful possession of forest produce, including illegal logging.

For illegal trespassing, the government plans to increase the fine from RM10,000 to RM30,000.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Xavier Jayakumar said the proposed higher fines would be included in the amendments to the National Forestry Act 1984. "This is to strengthen several provisions under the Act.

"The ministry had discussed the matter with several states and proposed amendments would be brought (to Dewan Rakyat) before the end of next year," he said after attending the National Land Council Meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail yesterday.

Presently, the maximum fine for those found to have unlawful possession of forest produce is RM500,000.

Dr Xavier also said that the council felt the amendments were necessary to ensure the Act was in line with the latest development.

As for Sabah and Sarawak, he said the two states had their own ordinance. "They can follow our proposals or they can enact their own at their state assemblies," he said.