



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah perusing the '40 Hadis Pelestarian Alam Sekitar' book during its launch at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's (UTM) campus in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are (from second left) UTM Pro Chancellors Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor and Tan Sri Siti Sa'diah Sheikh Bakir and UTM Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Wahid Omar, as well as the book's authors, Professor Datuk Dr Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff (left) and Professor Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang (right). BERNAMA PIC

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Trees and forests are not protected, says ruler

KUALA LUMPUR: The rise in natural disasters around the world is due to the increasing loss of natural resources, such as trees and forests.

Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah said trees and forests, which are crucial in regulating the climate, were not protected as they were no longer considered important.

"Natural forest resources are viewed as a means to gain profits by the greedy, causing rampant illegal logging.

"Without trees and forests, all the benefits of forest resources are lost.

"The plant and animal populations will decline and natural habitats destroyed.

"The food chain will be broken, and this will subsequently endanger human life."

Sultan Nazrin said this during the launch of the book, *40 Hadis Pelestarian Alam Sekitar* (40 Hadith on Environmental Sustainability), by Professor Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang and Professor Datuk Dr Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's campus here yesterday.

Based on data provided by the Department of Environment, there were 579 rivers in Malaysia in 2008, but only 477 remain today.

"Malaysia lost 102 rivers in

10 years.

"From the 477 rivers, only 219 were categorised as clean, while 207 were categorised as semi-polluted and 51 polluted," said Sultan Nazrin.

He said in 2015, when he was travelling along Sungai Perak from Pasir Salak to Teluk Intan for his installation as the 35th sultan of Perak, his son, Raja Azlan Muzaffar Shah, who was 7 at that time, had counted more than 700 plastic bottles strewn in the river during the 65km journey.

He said nature was God's gift to mankind, and as responsible humans we should safeguard and protect it from harm and pollution.

"Preserving the environment is a huge responsibility that needs to be shared by everyone, and not the government alone.

"If the current generation is not willing to conserve the environment, there will be nothing left for future generations.

"It's ironic that almost everyone strives to save and leave assets for their children and grandchildren, but only a few give se-

rious attention to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations."

Sultan Nazrin said the world needed more people like Ahmad Iszuddin Ahmad Izham, who received the Tuanku Bainun Young Changemakers Award 2019 (for the 13-15 years old individual category) for his effort to conserve

the environment and sea turtles, Pua Lay Peng, an environmentalist who has been championing environmental issues as well as exposing illegal plastic recycling factories and imported waste, and Swedish teenage climate campaigner Greta Thunberg.

"The book by these two academicians (Dr Zaini and

Dr Zulkifli) is one of many efforts to raise awareness on the importance of ensuring a sustainable environment.

"The objective is to mobilise members of the community to be more concerned and proactive in preserving the environment," Sultan Nazrin said, adding that the book was timely to educate Muslims to care more for the environment.

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SULTAN NAZRIN MUIZZUDDIN SHAH
Sultan of Perak