



Sahabat Alam Malaysia
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For Environmental Justice

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Media statement

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**Stop the Destruction and Exploitation of Forest at the Hill Slope of
Bukit Banjaran Kledang, near Chemor, Kinta District, Perak**

Another forest at the hill slope of Banjaran Kledang which was formerly part of Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve covering 500.2 hectares located near Chemor in Mukim Hulu Kinta, Kinta District has been exploited and destroyed since November, 1.

Based on field observations on December 6, about 20 hectares of forest area have been cleared and left barren.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) and Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA) questioned whether the logging licensee in the former HS Kledang Saiong had submitted and obtained approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report prior to commencement of the extraction activity (total area of approval of the extraction licence is 151.49 hectares).

EIA report has to be prepared and submitted according to the First Schedule, Activity 5(b), the Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 2015 for the following prescribed activity:

“Logging, or cutting or taking timber for the purpose of conversion from forest to other land use covering an area of 100 hectares or more but less than 500 hectares ”

SAM and KUASA have repeatedly voiced our concerns and had called on the State Authority not to excise land from Permanent Reserved Forests (PRF). We had proposed that the excised forest lands are re-gazetted or replaced with other land areas as PRF but our recommendations are not taken seriously.

In fact, the first agenda discussed during SAM meeting with the YAB Perak Menteri Besar on February 19 was that the State Authority should not excise any protected area especially PRF without justification and reasonable requirement.

Although the excision of a portion of HS Kledang Saiong covering 500.2 hectares was carried out during the previous administration, the YAB Menteri Besar as the EXCO in charge of land, forest and natural resources portfolio should have considered its impact on environmental wellbeing and re-gazette the excised land as PRF in line with one of the objectives of the National Forest Policy and the goals and objectives of the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia which aspires 5 million hectares extent of PRF in Peninsular Malaysia in 2020.

The excised portion of HS Kledang Saiong should have been protected and conserved as it is part of the Kinta Valley Geopark.

Each development plan particularly involving land conversion which is to be implemented by the State Authority should refer to and consider, and be in line and not inconsistent with all policies, physical planning plans, provisions and guidelines relating to the existing environment.

SAM and KUASA hope the Perak State Authority will review and refine all other project proposals that could have a significant impact on the well-being of the environment as contained in one of the 14th General Election manifesto initiatives in the last General Election.

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