

## FOREST ENCROACHMENT

**STOP ILLEGAL LOGGING IN PERAK**

**W**HILE most Malaysians are breathing cleaner air now with the end of the haze from the Indonesian forest fires, not so the Orang Asli in Perak.

For a long time, the Orang Asli in several places in Perak have seen logging encroaching on their ancestral land.

Perakians like myself thought that such illegal activities would end after last year's general election.

We were wrong.

The state government, under which jurisdiction falls forestry affairs, should take proactive steps to combat illegal logging, failing which it would be party to this menace by way of criminal neglect.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu must be determined to protect the rich ecosystem in the state.

The recent standoff between the Orang Asli in Kampung Sungai Papan and the logging companies was the result of pent-up frustration over the wanton, illegal destruction of forests in the state.

While Malaysians complain about the haze from Indonesia polluting our air, some of us seemed indifferent to environmental degradation in our own backyard.

That makes us hypocrites.

Faizal's attitude towards this



A patch of land is left barren due to illegal logging in Gerik, Perak. State governments must take proactive steps to combat illegal logging and protect the nation's rich ecosystem. FILE PIC

scourge is not helping.

His claims that "jobs will be lost" if logging was stopped, ring similar to how some Indonesian oil palm planters put profit before nature and the planet.

He also said the Orang Asli

community should not be used to prevent the state government from generating income from logging.

Coming from a Pakatan Harapan menteri besar, this is shocking!

We hope that efforts to clamp down on illegal logging in Perak do not disappear just like the haze from Indonesia.

**MOHD HUSSIN ISHAK SEBI**  
Kuala Kangsar, Perak