

# Kedah putting itself at risk

## DPM: Indiscriminate logging can harm state

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**SINTOK:** The Kedah government's failure to have proper planning when conducting logging activities can expose the state to many natural disasters, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"They should only cut the big trees, and leave the smaller trees alone to help prevent erosion," he told newsmen after attending a special meeting with state civil servants here.

*The Star* had highlighted rampant logging and mining activities in several districts in the state.

These included 5,000ha of land in the Gunung Inas forest reserve area and more than 1,000ha of land in Pedu, Jeniang and Sik.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Environment Forensic Centre, Environment Model Unit chief Dr Hafizan Juahir was also reported as saying that Kedah could face mud floods on a large scale in the future due to uncontrolled logging activities in water catchment areas.

Muhyiddin said the PAS-led state government had conducted logging activities because it did not have other resources to spend for the state's development.

On another matter, Muhyiddin said the Kedah Barisan Nasional had been told to beef up its preparation to wrest the state back in the next general election.

Earlier during the meeting, Muhyiddin com-

mended the strong commitment shown by civil servants to ensure the success of the government transformation programmes.

Their strong commitment had helped the programmes to be successfully implemented, resulting in the country gaining global recognition, he said.

"Malaysia is ranked 10th internationally as the country that attracts foreign direct investment this year, above several developed countries including Sweden and also Germany.

"The success is due to the strong commitment by the civil servants," he said.

On another matter, Muhyidin slammed unscrupulous people for spreading false news on purported racial tension in the Kuala Muda district.

He said such false reports could have a bad impact on the country and cause uneasiness among the public.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar and the Home Ministry have issued statements denying any racial clash in the area.

Muhyiddin, who was on a one-day visit to Kedah, said police were taking action to stop the spreading of false news.

It was reported that the false report was circulated following a scuffle among illegal racers in Sungai Petani early on Sunday morning.

Police have arrested 36 people for spreading false information on the matter.