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Letters

Future generations will curse us

26 Apr 2006

[AZMI SHAHRIN ABDUL RAHIM, Subang Jaya](#)

I AM greatly concerned over the report "Logging ban if we get RM300m" (NST, April 22), in which Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob suggested an annual grant of RM300 million in return for ceasing logging in the State.

I find this statement shortsighted. The State Government should protect public interest and not focus on narrow business concerns.

If indeed the State needs RM300 million per annum to compensate families and related businesses, then has it done a proper investigation? I hope that this amount is not an arbitrary figure.

Additionally, it was not mentioned how long this compensation had to be paid. Certainly, it cannot be for perpetuity.

A one-off compensation, together with sufficient notice, would be adequate for the industry to adjust to the logging ban.

The State Government would be short-sighted if it calculated only its short-term economic losses arising from a logging ban. The forests are an invaluable environmental resource for the nation and the world. It is a natural carbon sink and a treasure house of biodiversity. As the MB also pointed out, it is also a water catchment reserve.

Therefore, its value and benefit are beyond ringgit and sen. The intangible value is beyond economic measurement. It is plain that the revenue of RM300 million is minuscule compared to the loss of the great intangible benefits provided by the forests.

In economic terms, logging creates a loss to society that is far greater than the benefits directly accruing to the beneficiaries. If adequate measures are not taken, the forests would be logged until they are barren for short-term gains.

I can only imagine our future generations cursing us for leaving them a world that is inhospitable and unlivable.

Therefore, I urge the Pahang Government to reconsider its stand on logging.

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