

'Clearing of the forest must be done properly'

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Yayasan Dalimpos

KEMABONG: A local community leader said clearing of forest for logging activities and game hunting must be done properly in order to protect the environment.

Kampung Mamaitom Head Anggu Yabak, 52, said all living things in the forest bordering Kampung Mamaitom and Kampung Kaingalan must be protected from being cleared by logging concession-

aires as well as Sabah Forest Industries (SFI) Sdn Bhd.

He claimed villagers here were unhappy with the attitude of the logging companies who were cutting down and extracting big trees from the forest without any concern for its impact on the environment and the villagers in the long run.

"Although we know the area belongs to SFI they should not simply chop down all the trees and turn the forest bald like in several areas here," he said.

"Remember the trees took many years to grow and if it is being cut down in large quantity all the flora and fauna near it will also be destroyed," Anggu told *Daily Express* during the surveying of boundary programme for tourism and village area here Friday.

The area here particularly along Sungai Tolokoson had been identified as a potential tourist attraction by officers from the Tourism Ministry as well as Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) researchers who had come here and the villagers hoped it would not be logged.

"Therefore, on behalf of the Kampung Mamaitom villagers and others as well I hope timber companies and game hunters no matter from far or near will not simply come and cut down the trees as well as hunt in the area that we have marked," he said.

Also on hand were Tenom MP Datuk Raimie Unggi, Kampung Maitom JKKK Chairman, Bataun Bilaad and kampung folk.



Raimie, Batuan and villagers at the event.



Batuan (left) showing the warning signboard.



A villager showing a tree.