KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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Proposal to gazette Gunung Inas as protected forest

KUALA LUMPUR: The Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department has proposed that Gunung Inas in Baling be turned into a protected forest that functions as a water catchment area.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the suggestion was made so that the area cannot be encroached upon as well as provide security to people in the Baling area.

He added that investigations by the department and the Kedah State Forestry Department found that there was hybrid durian or Musang King cultivation being carried out in the area.

"I would like to state that Musang King is not one of the species identified for forest plantation. There are 11 species (identified for forest plantation), including acacia, *batai*, rubber clones and teak.

"But it (hybrid durian) was cultivated in Kedah as early as 2017. The then government approved 20% Musang King cultivation in 2019 and it is allowed until now."

He said this in reply to a question from Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim (BN-Baling) on the ministry's steps to ensure people's safety, especially those around Gunung Inas Baling, following the recent water surge incident. – Bernama

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