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Stop illegal activities that threaten resources: Lajim

By JAILANI HASAN

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government's efforts in protecting various natural resources have been adversely impeded by the illegal activities of certain irresponsible locals as well as immigrants.

These activities include illegal logging, primitive agricultural methods and other forms of destructive actions that have been identified as a threat to the 'eco-community.'

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin said the uncaring attitude of the community, driven by greed and profiteering, made it difficult for the Government to protect the State's natural resources.

He was speaking at the launch of the Symposium on Genetic Resources of Borneo, jointly organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Genetic Society of Malaysia, here yesterday.

"Our duty is too wide and difficult. We need to monitor, coordinate and protect the various resources ranging from marine and fresh water to low and high lands.

"We also need to monitor the various biological lives



Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin officiating the symposium yesterday.

such as micro organism, mammal, reptile and plants," said Lajim who is also the Agriculture Development and Food Industry Minister.

Although the involvement of the local community was not that serious compared to the immigrants, he said the locals must keep themselves away from these destructive activities.

"The locals must not lease out their lands to the immigrants or action could be taken against them under the Land Ordinance. The Government views this with serious concern and will not hesitate to take legal action against those involved," he warned.

He said what the Government could do at present is to

fully enforce the law.

"We will not let such illegal activities to weaken the Government's efforts in protecting the natural resources of the State.

"We have sufficient manpower and are confident that we will be able to address and eliminate the illegal activities in accordance to the law," he added.