



STOP LAND GRAB IN BUKIT CHERAKAH

WE ARE ALARMED at the destruction inside Bukit Cherakah Forest Reserve (Figures 1 & 2).

We refer to the statement given yesterday (24 September 2021) by Selangor executive council member, YB Hee Loy Sian. He claims that the area was de-gazetted in 2006. He notes the reference number “PW1443”. However, this is the number of a *survey plan* (Figure 3), it does not refer to a *Gazette* notification.

Survey plan PW1443 was signed on 7 September 2006 by Selangor State Director of Survey and Mapping, John Elvis Koh. This document is indeed a *plan* to de-gazette the forest. But the survey plan is not proof that the forest has been de-gazetted. The proof must come from the *Gazette* itself.

The *Gazette* is published, survey plans are not. *Gazette* notification is required by Section 13 of the Forestry Enactment. We have checked the *Gazette* and found that the Bukit Cherakah Forest Reserve was not de-gazetted in 2006. Therefore, YB Hee’s statement is misleading. Until a *Gazette* notification is issued, the area in question is still part of the forest reserve.

Notification of government decisions in the *Gazette* is a core part of our democracy. The process ensures transparency and accountability. Trying to shortcut the process is against the rule of law.

We call on the government to respect the Bukit Cherakah Forest Reserve and stop the destruction. The Selangor Committee on Accountability and Transparency (SELCAT) should address this issue.

Shah Alam Community Forest Society

Contact: Teckwyn Lim, +6016-361 9148
25 September 2021

Figure 1 (left):
Land-clearing and hill-cutting in Compartment 35, Bt Cherakah Forest Reserve.
Photo: PEKA, 8 September 2021.

Figure 2 (right):
Map of Bukit Cherakah Forest Reserve (destruction highlighted).
Source: RESCU, 25 September 2021,
Maxar Technologies image, December 2020.

Figure 3:
Survey plan PW1443.

