

C N S 0 2 7 8

R GE 27-04 00172 EA898

a a e tbe

STOP USING THE PENANS, MAHATHIR TELLS ANTI-TROPICAL TIMBER ACTIVISTS
Mahathir-Penans

XUALA LUMPUR, April '27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told the promoters of temperate timber to accept the competition posed by tropical timber and stop making an issue of the Penans.

+Promote temperate timber if you must but accept competition by tropical timber,+ he said at the opening' of the Second Ministerial Conference, of Developing Countries on Environment and Development here.

+You advocate open markets and free trade. Now live up to your own creed,+ he said, referring to the developed nations where an anti-tropical timber campaign is being widely waged.

He said the arm 'misting must stop and the tendency to link trade and aid to developing countries with environmental issues must also cease.

The Prime Minister said that when the anti-tropical timber campaign did not attract sufficient attention, its promoters needed to add a human face to it. -- more

▼27/04/15-47MST

CNS0281

R GE 27-04 001'75 EA899

aae tbe

Mahathir-Penans 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He added: +The anti-tropical timber activists see in the Penans an opportunity to put a human face to their campaign for temperate timber.

+And so, the gentle Penans are urged to be militant; to protest, to erect blockades and defy the authorities.+

He said the Penans are a gentle, law-abiding people numbering about, 10,000 -in the state of Sarawak who were originally shifting 'cultivators and hunters.

Some 9,000 of them had already settled down on permanent farms or were working as wage-earners.'

Dr Mahathir said if the 1,000 still 'living in the jungle should choose to stay there, it was a choice which the government would respect.

But this choice 'must be well considered.

+This choice must not be a part of the North's 'anti-tropical timber campaign,+ he added.

Certain anti-tropical timber activists have been campaigning for 'a halt. in logging activities in Sarawak purportedly to save the Penans from +extinction.+-- Bernama

▼27/04/15-48MST