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SAM's proposal

PENANG, Mon. - Sahabat Alam Malaysia today called for the establishment of a national wildlife conservation policy to prevent further loss of wildlife.

SAM president S. M. Mohd Idris also called for the strengthening of the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972, in order to preserve wildlife habitats.

"There is no provision in the Act to empower the authorities to prevent the conversion of wildlife habitats into areas for development and agriculture," he said.

Mohd Idris supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for a balance between development and the protection of wildlife.

"However, what appears to be happening is that this balance is tilted in favour of development."

He added that Malaysia should not follow the path taken by the West.

"The fact that the West has driven its animals to extinction should be a reminder that we are embarking on the same path if we do not take any action."

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