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Enforce all amended laws to prevent landslides

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A COUPLE of years ago, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad aired his concern over the clearing of natural reserves on hill-tops in the name of development in the Ampang area. Having seen the "balding" of hills from the air, he called for a report and all works were suspended for a while, only to resume another day.

Had the authorities paid heed, the Taman Hillview landslide may have been prevented.

The authorities did take some action. The Uniform Building Bylaws of 1984 were amended, the Building Control Unit was established, and there was a temporary freeze on construction of high-rise buildings. But landslides keep occurring.

So the main solution isn't just prohibiting the cutting of hill slopes by certain degrees. It is the stoppage of all future hill development that needs to be enforced.

What we really need is to enforce all amended laws, and monitor development on a regular basis. That means a total comprehensive building and land audit by professional bodies, for commercial, residential, land and hillside development.

We are not lacking in technical knowledge, but what preventive measures