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The rape of Rawang's environment

W.C.M.

I REFER to the report "Jail the offenders, says PM" (NST, Feb 5). I am delighted with the Prime Minister's clarion call to greedy developers to mend their ways.

I agree with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the fines imposed at present are no deterrent and that stiffer penalties, even a jail sentence, would be appropriate.

The rape of the environment that is going on in Cameron Highlands is a serious matter. But such activities are rampant elsewhere too.

Take Rawang, for instance.

Perhaps the Prime Minister should take a look at the state of the physical environment in Rawang to understand what I mean.

Indiscriminate hill cutting and land clearing have become the order of the day in and around Rawang. They are taking place, notably, near Templer Park, in the Kancing and Serendah forest reserves, on the slopes of the Main Range, and the hills around Sungai Buaya.

Of utmost concern to Rawang residents is Mount Putra. The developers have promised residents of this desirable enclave "a panoramic view of Rawang town" - at the cost of stripping the dwindling greenery.

And since the project is sited on the Main Range watershed the rivers that originate here, notably Sungai Rawang, Sungai Kancing, Sungai Kenanga, and Sungai Serendah, may be affected by it.

Has a proper EIA been done?

By the way, what has happened to the Selangor Government's pledge to stop hill-slope development, and the tree audit enactment in the wake of the disastrous flash floods in Rawang three years ago?