

Forest sensors for fires, logging

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PUTRAJAYA: A new remote sensing technology will be used to detect illegal logging and forest fires in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced yesterday that the hyper sectoral remote sensing provided accurate and quick information on forest inventory like the number of species and size of the trees.

"We have conducted the pioneer project at the Gunung Stong state park in Kelantan and we found it effective. We

will expand its usage to other parts of the country," he told reporters after chairing the National Forestry Council meeting at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The new technology would be used by the Malaysian Remote Sensing Centre.

Najib said the council was concerned with the declining timber resources in Peninsular Malaysia and would act to arrest the problem.

Among the steps to be taken were

streamlining all policies related to wood-based industry, preparing a policy including incentives to encourage downstream activities that could produce high-quality products, increase the efficiency of existing sawmills and reduce wastage.

Also present were Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.