

A Toyota Estima trapped in soil and mud washed onto the highway after a huge chunk of a hill crumbled on Wednesday evening.



The dire situation at the Lentang Forestry Department quarters which narrowly missed being destroyed by huge boulders and logs that came crashing down a nearby hill.



Heavy machinery being used during the clean-up at the area yesterday.

Two days after the devastation, residents at the Lentang Forestry Department quarters returned to salvage belongings.



A slow moving stream in the hills beside Lentang turned into a raging torrent on Wednesday, tossing aside huge boulders as it picked up logs and other debris. It finally vented its force on a hill slope that crumbled under the fury of the deluge.

Pressing queries over disaster

PETALING JAYA — A raft of questions has surfaced following Wednesday's landslide along the Karak Highway.

Queries are centred on whether logging had been carried out uphill and how a small stream had gathered enough force to dislodge boulders.

Another talking point is the location of the seven unstable hill slopes that the Bentong OCPD Mohd Mansor Mohd Nor had been quoted as mentioning in the wake of the incident.

Central to the debate is also why little was done to address the issue of a possible landslide after an environmental organisation alerted the Pahang government and Tenaga Nasional Berhad about warning signs of an impending disaster.

Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof admitted in the aftermath of the incident that aerial observations of the site in question revealed logging activities in the forest high above the site of the landslide with logs strewn across the highway.

He said several development projects in the surrounding areas would be re-evaluated to establish if guidelines by the state and federal governments had been followed.

The Fire and Rescue Department, however, said pools of water atop the hills could have led to the raging torrent that tore down the hill slope.

The department also did not discount the possibility of logging behind the incident.

Highway concessionaire Anih Berhad insisted the landslide was an isolated incident caused by natural factors.

It said routine site inspections had not revealed a risk of landslides in the affected area.

Meanwhile, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the logs that had been washed downhill in the incident were not left behind by logging but were old trees that had been stripped of bark.



Karak Highway **SHUT**



The landslide caused an eight-hour traffic jam, leaving hundreds of motorists stranded on the highway.