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## Hamzah: Frim must cooperate fully with board

THE Forest Research Institute Malaysia (Frim), the country's research and development arm for tropical forestry, has been taken to task for not fully cooperating with the government's timber sector watchdog agency, the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB).

Plantation Industries and Commodities Deputy Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin said although the two entities are mutually dedicated towards the country's timber industry, they are not united in doing their work.

"Frim and MTIB share the same legislation but yet they are not united in doing work. They should do research together so that they can solve problems together as well as increase the country's timber output," Hamzah told reporters in Selangor yesterday after gracing MTIB's 36th anniversary.

Frim was formerly under the then Primary Industries Ministry (later renamed Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry). Frim is now under the purview of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

"Frim is now under a different ministry and it is like another research centre altogether. It will be difficult to streamline work in a more efficient way. Work together so that you can solve problems for the good of the timber sector and the country," Hamzah said.

Meanwhile, a Frim official who declined to be named, said the institute has always carried out auditing and certification activities together with MTIB.

"In some cases, it is Frim who leads the way and sometimes we teach them how to do it," said the official.

Frim director general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod could not be contacted.