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Be vigilant against damaging activities

I REFER to the letter "Who do we blame for water woes?" by S. Param in which he alluded that the current water shortage cannot be totally caused by the unpredictable weather as a consequence of global warming. Politicians playing their usual politics have also been a significant reason, he maintains, and the six-year delay in the Langat 2 project is evidence of that.

While I agree with him that this could be true, Langat 2 is just a project made necessary due to decades of blatant exploitation of our natural resources and wanton destruction of our limited forest reserves and catchment areas that has brought on the current plight.

In addition to taking steps like the Langat 2 tunnel, we must also be vigilant against other exploitative efforts by politicians and ever greedy businesses to inflict long-term damage on the environment, thus affecting water supply.

In another report, environmental groups expressed serious concern at the imminent

expressway project KLORR that will cut through Selangor's water catchment areas and forest reserves.

The project, if pushed through, will reduce our water catchment capacity, not to mention the destruction of pristine forests and the loss of diminishing wildlife. The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia also expressed its consternation in an earlier report.

Malaysians, especially politicians, must wake up to the fact that we cannot continue to have more "Langat-X"-type projects to keep our citizens satiated.

The destruction of forest reserves (set up for the good of future generations) will drastically reduce water retention and will even contribute to global warming in the international context.

Progress and development must be made in tune with Mother Nature or we will suffer its wrath.

TAM YENG SIANG
PEJAJING JAYA, SELANGOR