

# Logs legal, but owner does not have transport permit

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**KUALA NERANG:** The 80 logs found stacked in the jungle near Kampung Charuk Malau near here on Sunday were legally felled on privately-owned land.

However, Kedah Forestry Department director Kassim Osman said the owner of the land did not

have the permit to transport the logs out of his property.

"We have checked the matter. The land is privately owned and the owner had the right to fell the trees.

"However, he did not ask us for a permit to remove the logs," he said, when asked to comment on complaints of illegal felling by residents of the village.

The residents, fearing that ille-

gal felling of timber had taken place in the forest behind their houses, had tipped off the press on Sunday.

Kassim said his department had also frozen permits for harvesting timber in Padang Terap district since early this month to facilitate an inventory being carried out in the area.

He said he had not received any application to harvest timber over

the past few weeks.

"If the landowner had secured a permit earlier, he would have been required to label the trees before they were felled," added Kassim.

"We did not find any labels on the logs."

Anyone found guilty of illegally transporting logs faces a maximum fine of RM500,000 and imprisonment of up to 20 years.