

4 landslides in Camerons this year

ONE FATALITY:

Foreign farm worker buried by landslide in Bertam Valley in January

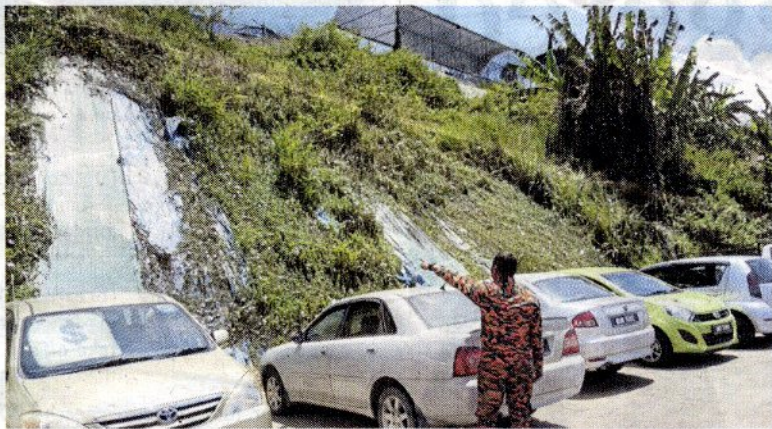
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THE continuing problem of land encroachment and rapid development here is believed to have caused several landslides.

Cameron Highlands Fire and Rescue Department assistant chief (operations) Mohd Azmi Zakaria said there had been four landslides recorded by the department this year.



Cameron Highlands Fire and Rescue Department assistant chief (operations) Mohd Azmi Zakaria showing the at-risk slope in front of the Petronas station parking area in Ringlet, Cameron Highlands, yesterday. Pic by Mohamed Arsyad Md Yassin

“One death was recorded in January when a foreign farm worker was buried by a landslide at a vegetable farm in Bertam Valley here,”

Azmi said yesterday.

He said there were many landslides here, but they were not reported to the department as they did

not involve any casualties.

“We have identified 33 hillslopes that are prone to landslides, with four of them identified as critical areas, as announced by Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (on Tuesday),” he said.

The four critical slopes are near the Petronas station parking area in Ringlet, Jalan Kuala Terla, Evergreen Villa and Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Tiang.

Wan Junaidi had said that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had asked for mitigation work to be sped up on the four critical slopes at a cost of RM7 million.

It was reported that among the slope engineering work to be done were the construction of retaining walls, anchors and rock netting.

Azmi said the other landslide-prone areas were mostly located in Bertam Valley, Ringlet and Kampung Kuala Terla.

“Whenever it rains, there is a high possibility of landslides especially along the roads,” he said.

Based on information gathered on the ground, he said land clearing by illegal farmers was the main culprit.

“Mitigation work to be implemented by the Drainage and Irrigation Department and the Department of Environment would lessen the occurrence of landslides here.”

Azmi said the department was geared up to face any landslides, especially during the upcoming inter-monsoon season.

At present, he said, 31 personnel are based at the district fire station and are on standby in a rotation of three shifts daily.