



KERATAN AKHBAR

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SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDER

'Drastic measures necessary to stop illegal wildlife trade'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Drastic measures against poachers is crucial following a revelation by the police of the involvement of prominent individuals in the illegal activity.

Animal welfare activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Tjye also said it was understandable that the proposed "shoot-to-kill order" against poachers was justified.

"Many Malaysian animals will go extinct if no drastic steps are taken to address the issue of poaching."

"Hence, we must support the police including their proposal for stricter penalties, including mandatory caning for poaching," he said yesterday.

Lee, who is the patron of the Society for the Prevention of Cru-

elty to Animals, Selangor, said countries with high biodiversity like Malaysia were becoming transit points for smuggled species.

"A 2016 report by Wildlife Justice Commission revealed that Kuala Lumpur was the easiest port to move protected wildlife."

"The report also revealed that it costs traffickers 50 per cent less to move contraband through KLIA and klu2, compared with Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport."

He said the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime has estimated that the global wildlife trafficking industry to be worth between US\$7 billion (RM28 billion) and US\$23 billion annually. Lee called for the urgent need

to review all existing laws, especially legislation on poaching.

"The government should expedite its plan to amend the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 to imprison poachers for more than 10 years and fine them up to RM5 million upon conviction."

"(And) the government should also consider mandatory imprisonment not only for poachers but also those convicted of abetting the culprits including VVIPs."

He said the police's recommendation for mandatory whipping of those found guilty and tightening the conditions for the issuance of firearms licences and hunting permits must also be considered.

On the enforcement of the law, Lee said the government should

boost collaboration between agencies including increasing the number of military or police

personnel to check and prevent poaching, especially in forest reserves.