



KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
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DO YOU KNOW ...

ABOUT THE PAYA INDAH WETLANDS' HIPPOS?

The first three Nile hippos - one bull named Kundra and two cows named Juwita and Cendana - at Paya Indah Wetlands in Putrajaya were gifts from the Botswana government in 2001. Kundra sired two calves, one each with Juwita and Cendana.

- Kundra died in 2016 and Juwita was sent to a mini zoo in Tambun, Perak.
- Cendana gave birth to Lily in 2011. Juwita's calf, a male named Baby, was born in 2013. Three weeks ago, Cendana gave birth to Cornel after she was paired with Baby. The wetlands has four hippos now.
- The hippos spend about 18 hours in the water and graze on grass by the lakeside. They are each fed 60kg of vegetables, fruits, nappier grass and roots daily.
- Hippos turn pink when they are dry. This is due to the pinkish oily fluid secreted on their skin, which acts as a moisturiser, water repellent and antibiotic to protect them from the sun.
- Hippos reach adulthood between four and seven years old and have a lifespan of between 40 and 50 years in the wild or 60 years in captivity. Females reproduce when they are five or six years old.
- Hippos don't swim; they walk in the water with webbed feet and close their nostrils and ears when underwater.
- They have a gestation period of about 230 days or eight months. Calves are born underwater and normally weigh about 40kg at birth. A baby hippo starts eating grass at three weeks old and is weaned at eight months.





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