



KERATAN AKHBAR

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GOF 11th Battalion commanding officer Superintendent Rosdi Inai with a picture of his men and the smuggled birds at a press conference at the GOF headquarters in Kuching yesterday. PIC BY L. MANIMARAN

## Bid to smuggle out 1,060 birds foiled

**KUCHING:** The 11th Battalion General Operations Force (GOF) thwarted an attempt to smuggle 1,060 birds into Indonesia via hidden paths or “jalan tikus” in Tebedu on Monday.

GOF 11th Battalion commanding officer Superintendent Rosdi Inai said following a tip-off, a team comprising 11 GOF personnel, four Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and four Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) personnel conducted an operation under “Op Bersepadu Khazanah”.

“The team went to the location at 1pm and discovered the birds, consisting of white-rumped shamas (*Murai Batu*) and oriental magpie-robins (*Murai Kampung*).

“It is estimated that the birds are worth RM855,000. The birds were kept in plastic

basket trays and covered with cardboard. We believe they were ready to be transported to a neighbouring country,” he said at the GOF headquarters here yesterday.

“A 39-year-old Indonesian woman was arrested as she claimed to be the owner of the birds while a local man, aged 30, was arrested for trying to bribe the enforcement team.

“The suspect had tried to offer RM7,000 to the personnel for not taking action against the woman.”

Rosdi said there was high demand for the birds in Indonesia.

The case was handed over to SFC and MACC, and will be investigated under Section 29 of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998 and Section 17(b) MACC Act 2009.