



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Dawn of hope for endangered wild animals

THE closing of ivory factories in China will help to reduce the poaching and killing of elephants for their tusks.

Hopefully, similar policies will also be implemented to reduce the demand in the Chinese market for other animal products like rhinoceros horns and shark fins. Rhinoceroses are being poached and killed cruelly for their horns, which are believed to have medicinal value, and sharks are being killed to meet the demand for shark fin soup.

When there is no more factory making ivory products, there will be no demand for raw ivory and the price will drop, making it less lucrative for people to kill elephants. Therefore, I hope the Chinese Government will close all the remaining ivory factories soon. I also hope the Hong Kong authorities will emulate their counterparts on the mainland and close all the ivory factories on the island.

I hope too that more campaigns would be conducted internationally to discourage the use of exotic wildlife products since many of these animals are already facing extinction as humans encroach on their habitats.

On the home front, more efforts must be made to stop the export of wildlife and animal parts. There are still some food outlets offering exotic wildlife dishes in this country and I hope the authorities will raid these premises and take tough action on the owners.

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