



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	16/1/2020	MUKA SURAT	:	8
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Duo jailed and fined RM1.46mil for possession of pangolins

KUCHING: Two men have been sentenced to a year's jail and fined RM1.46mil each for possessing 146 pangolins without a licence in the largest case of illegal wildlife trade in Sarawak ever.

Bintulu Sessions Court judge Norhamizah Shaiffuddin handed down the sentence on Tan Choon How and Kelvin Por Seong Wooi on Monday after finding them guilty under Sections 37(2)(b) and 37(1) of the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998.

She said the sentence would serve as a deterrent in the illegal wildlife trade.

Tan, 45, and Por, 31, were found in posses-

sion of the pangolins on a vessel about three nautical miles from Bintulu on April 5, 2018.

The vessel was intercepted by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, who handed the case to the state Forest Department.

The court however discharged and acquitted two other accused in the case - Indian national Anoop Pathak and Vietnamese Do Doan Lai - after finding they had raised reasonable doubt against the prosecution's case.

Pangolins are a protected species in Sarawak. The penalty for illegal possession is one year imprisonment and a fine of RM10,000 per animal.