



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	8/10/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	13
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Elephant-killing suspects likely to face charges

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KOTA KINABALU: The six suspects who were nabbed for the brutal killing of an adult bull pygmy elephant in Tawau last month will most likely be charged in court later this week after their remand expires today.

The elephant was found tied to a tree trunk by the riverbank on Sept 25 with over 70 bullet wounds on its body.

Tawau police chief Asst Comm Peter Umbuas said the suspects' remand which ended Sunday, was extended for another two days.

"We are investigating these suspects under the Firearms Act and are hoping to charge them in court after this second remand ends," he said.

He said apart from police, wildlife officials are also probing the suspects under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment.

"Wildlife officials might charge these suspects after we have done so under our Act, but we are not sure," said ACP Umbuas yesterday.

Sabah Wildlife Department officials could

not be reached for comments.

The six including an officer and two Felda settlers were arrested on Oct 2 in Felda Umas and Ladang Dumpas for allegedly killing the elephant and taking its tusks.

The arrests also led to the seizure of five guns, including three homemade shotguns, 53 bullet shell casings, 59 live ammunition and two elephant tusks, hidden in Felda Umas cooperative's farm.

In a statement, Felda said it would not compromise on wildlife brutality.

The statement said that they are working closely with police and wildlife officials to investigate the matter.

"We will take stern actions against our staff and members who are wrong in this case as well," said the statement.

The statement also stressed that Felda practises environmental friendly policies including those related to environment protection and conservation efforts.

They are also bound by standard operating procedures when dealing with elephants and other wildlife in their areas of operation.