



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	MALAYSIAN RESERVE			
TARIKH	:	30/7/2018	MUKA SURAT	:	2
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN / KATS			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

► Govt mulling amendments to Wildlife Conservation Act 2010



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THE government is studying to amend the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 by introducing mandatory jail sentences against individuals caught hunting wildlife illegally. Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources Dr Xavier Jayakumar said his ministry will work with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) to improve the Act to prosecute illegal hunters accordingly. "By strengthening the Act, enforcement could be boosted, we will make the amendments because it is understood that the existing Act does not facilitate the enforcement process. This amendment may involve the addition of penalties to double from the previous, but what I see is that there are those who can pay, so we must also include a prison sentence which is seen to be more effective in dealing with this issue." Xavier said this at a media conference in conjunction with the Global Tiger Day celebration organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia at the Tuanku Bainun Children's Creative Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The Global Tiger Day is celebrated on July 29 each year to foster awareness of the importance of tiger conservation to the world community. He said through operations conducted by Perhilitan, they had found various species of animals which were injured — including tigers, tapirs and elephants — due to the wire snares installed by illegal hunters. From 2014 to June, Perhilitan had destroyed over 2,890 wire snares in 479 operations conducted. Hence, Xavier hopes that corporate companies will be able to help non-governmental organisations finance the projects to destroy the snares in the quest to save the wildlife from extinction. "I understand that WWF in collaboration with Perhilitan have carried out Project Stampede which consists of only 15 people to identify and destroy the trap areas. They need 50 more individuals to help them continue this project more widely and I encourage the corporate sector to assist them in successfully implementing this project and to go all out to eradicate illegal poaching." — *Bernama*