



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE SUN			
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JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
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Huge haul of rhino horns seized

KUALA LUMPUR: The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) seized 50 rhinoceros horns and nine carcasses of carnivorous animals estimated to be worth RM48.5 million at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) on Aug 13.

Its director-general, Datuk Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim, said acting on a tip-off from the Customs Department at the airport, a team from Perhilitan inspected 10 boxes before they discovered the prohibited items weighing 316kg in total.

The horns, sold at US\$100,00 (RM410,100) per kilogramme on the black market, and carcasses were believed to be exported to Vietnam for medical purposes without valid permits, he told a press conference at the department's headquarters in Cheras yesterday.

"Customs alerted us of a stench detected from a cargo at KLIA, suspecting it contained animal carcasses.

"Upon reaching the scene, we found six boxes of rhino horns while four more had animal carcasses believed to be from carnivorous animal," he said.

Abdul Kadir said Perhilitan would run a DNA tests to identify the species.

"The investigation to identify



Abdul Kadir with the confiscated horns during a press conference yesterday.

the owner of the consignment is still ongoing. Initial investigation revealed that the consignment note carries false information."

According to Abdul Kadir, the department would also cooperate and exchange information with Interpol.

Separately, he said the search and rescue operation for Perhilitan ranger Ahmad Tarmizi Ahmad Japli, who went missing at the Taman Negara forest reserve in Jerantut, Pahang, which entered its ninth day, was still ongoing.

He said the operation, involving 172 personnel of various agencies, had so far covered an area of 30 sq km.

"The department has also set up a helipad in the national park area to facilitate the operation from the air." - Bernama