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# Hunting condition to be revoked

## High time for Malaysians to stop hunting as a hobby, says IGP

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Bukit Aman will rescind the condition, which permitted more than 6,900 holders of licensed firearms to hunt wildlife, says Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador.

While many owned a gun to protect their crops or for personal safety, the Inspector-General of Police said there were those who go hunting with the firearms.

"We will identify those with the 'hunting' condition in their firearms licenses and we will withdraw that clause in stages. "It's high time for Malaysians to

stop hunting as a hobby," he told a press conference after attending the Ops Bersatu Khazanah (OBK) yesterday.

The decision to rescind the "hunting" condition was in line with the goal of the OBK, which was to protect the nation's flora and fauna, he added.

"What is the need to go hunting when we have an abundance of food being sold. "Even those with firearms to protect their crops, I don't encourage them to use the weapon.

"Use other means to ward-off encroaching animals, but if it fails, then only use the weapon as a last

resort," Abdul Hamid said.

The IGP also advised enforcement personnel to not be intimidated by hunters who dropped names of VVIPs, to enter restricted areas.

"If they are being bothered by such individuals, make an official police report," he said.

While the police have not received any information of any VVIPs being involved in poaching, Abdul Hamid called on the public and non-governmental organisations to come forward if they have such information.

"We will definitely take action without fear or favour," he said. The OBK was launched on Sept 3

last year by the IGP.

It consists of cooperation between Perhilitan and the General Operations Force's Senoi Praaq Team (Battalion 3) and Battalion 18.

The Senoi Praaq battalion comprises Orang Asli officers who are highly skilled at tracking in the forest.

The authorities have looked into 21 cases and arrested 63 people - 15 of them Malaysians - for poaching wildlife and plants.

Meanwhile, a licensed gun holder from Slim River welcomed the proposal to curb hunting activities among gun owners. "A lot of gun owners misused

their firearms and carried out hunting as a hobby.

"Many of them are doing this without hunting permits," he said. He said by restricting these activities, it would definitely help to protect some of the country's protected and endangered species.

Another hunter, Salim Kasim said he agreed on the idea of a stringent control over the permission to hunt endangered and protected species.

However, he said "the police should be more lenient towards those who hunt bats, squirrels, wild boars and some other species which were considered a pest to farmers and planters."