



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES		
TARIKH	:	8/11/2019	MUKA SURAT	: 11
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN		
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>		



*A corpse of a Borneo pygmy elephant with its tusks removed in Beluran last month.*  
 PIC COURTESY OF SABAH WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

# IS THE END NEAR FOR SABAH'S PYGMY ELEPHANTS?

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah faces the extinction of its critically endangered Borneo pygmy elephant if the killing of the land mammal continues.

State Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Christina Liew said the spate of elephant deaths was not good for the survival of the species.

“If this continues, we might be looking at another extinction of a large mammal in Sabah. We must not let this happen. I will not let this happen.

“We need to work with stakeholders to ensure we do not let the elephants go the same way the rhinos did.”

On Nov 3, the carcass of an elephant was found in Sungai Kinabatangan, less than two weeks after another pachyderm was found dead with gunshot wounds at a plantation in Beluran.

In September, a dead elephant was found with 70 gunshot wounds at a plantation in Kalabakan, Tawau. In the first two cases, the tusks of the elephants had been removed.

Six people were arrested and are expected to face charges of killing the Kal-

abakan pachyderm. On the Kinabatangan elephant carcass, Liew said there was reason to believe that the pachyderm was killed as its front legs were cut off by a sharp object.

“Based on the length of the front-leg bone (ulna) that was recovered, we have estimated the height of the elephant. We believe it to be a 1.8m sub-adult bull elephant. We do not know if the tusks were taken as the head was missing. It’s believed that the elephant was dead for more than a week.”

Liew, who is Sabah tourism, culture and environment minister, said it would be challenging for the Sabah Wildlife Department team to determine the exact location the elephant had died since it was found floating in the river.

She added that the department and police were working to solve the case.

“We hope the police’s Tiger Platoon under the General Operations Force will be mobilised soon to assist the department to protect wildlife, especially elephants, and put an end to these senseless killings once and for all.”