



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	THE STAR	:		
TARIKH	:	30/9/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN	:		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN	:		

Jumbo's body riddled with 70 bullets

Source: Poachers used semi-automatic guns to kill elephant before removing its tusk

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KOTA KINABALU: A team of vets and wildlife officials conducting a post-mortem on an elephant in Sungai Ubin, Tawau district made a gruesome discovery on what caused the animal's death.

A detailed examination found that the pachyderm's carcass was riddled with more than 70 bullets, believed to be fired from close range before its tusks were removed.

Information from the Sabah Wildlife Department was that at least four or five poachers were involved in the killing of the adult male pygmy elephant, which was initially thought to be a juvenile female based on earlier photos.

A source said the confusion could be due to the location where the carcass was found, which was half-submerged in a river.

The photos were first circulated on social media on Sept 25.

"It was found tied to a riverbank and more than half of the elephant's body was underwater," said the source, adding that based on wounds and bullets found in all parts of the elephant's body, the poachers were believed to have used semi-automatic guns fired from close range.

"It is not sure whether the elephant suffered greatly before dying, but one bullet

went right through the left temple."

The shot fractured and penetrated the skull and decimated the brain, meaning death would have been instantaneous after this shot was fired.

However, since there were more than 70 gunshot wounds all over, it was hard to determine which shot hit the elephant first.

When contacted, Sabah Wildlife Department director Augustine Tunga confirmed that the post-mortem had been completed and the nature of the elephant's death was cruel.

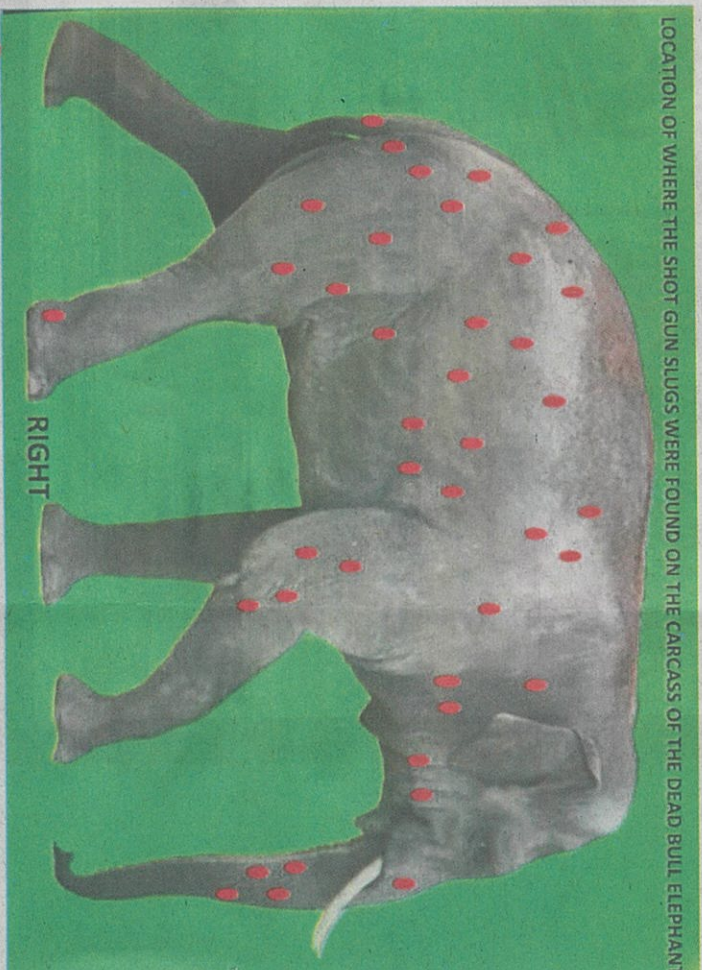
However, he did not elaborate on the findings.

Dr Sen Nathan, who was part of the team, thanked Sabah Softwood Bhd for its assistance.

Sabah Softwood provided the heavy machinery needed to bring the carcass from the river to dry land, and also prepared a boat during the search for the elephant earlier.

The pygmy elephant is totally protected under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997, and anyone found guilty of killing it could be jailed up to five years and fined up to RM250,000.

Elephants are continuously being killed over the years as they are considered a nuisance to farmers and plantation owners, whose plantations can sometimes be destroyed by them.



● SHOT GUN SLUG

40 SHOT GUN SLUGS FOUND EMBEDDED AT DIFFERENT DEPTHS IN THE CARCASS

Gruesome discovery: A photo showing the locations of 40 of the more than 70 bullets found in the elephant's carcass.