



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

# KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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## Kulim Bird Park seeks public help to stay afloat

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**GEORGE TOWN:** Since the first movement control order last year, the Kulim Bird Park in Kedah has been finding it difficult to care for more than 100 animals in the park.

Its owner Farah Sharmiza, 35, said there was a drastic drop in visitors and the situation could get worse in the next few weeks with the country in lockdown.

"The park is facing hardship. There is a loss of income and a reduction in essential supply for all the animals.

"Our monthly operational cost is about RM22,000, including food for the animals, staff salaries, utilities and veterinarian bills," she said.

"I am hoping that the public, especially animal lovers, can help

us out by 'adopting' one of our animals or purchasing tickets to the park in advance (<https://www.ticket2u.com.my/event/23466/animal-adoption-program-by-kulim-bird-park>).

"They can also donate whatever they can afford to help us. Details can be obtained from our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KulimBirdParkOfficial>)," she added.

Farah said before the MCO, the park was a popular place for families to visit as children could ride on ponies while parents took pictures with the park's albino python and other animals.

"The park is also a petting zoo and we have two Malayan porcupines, African hedgehogs, various types of parrot and pigeon, rabbits, peacocks, deer, raccoons and prairie dogs for our visitors to enjoy.

"Our more popular animals are the ponies, sun parakeets, and the Eclectus parrot and Congo grey parrot which are able to talk," she added.

Farah said she was an animal lover and used to have sugar gliders as pets and her collection quickly grew to include parrots.

In 2019, she decided to set up the Kulim Bird Park in Jalan Tunku Bendahara on a 0.4ha plot which she operates full-time with her 35-year-old husband Zuhaili Ismail.

"My animals are all obtained legally from a licensed supplier. They are well treated and taken care of with love," she said, adding that the park also bred hedgehogs before selling them to animal lovers.

Farah hoped the pandemic would end soon so that the park could again welcome visitors.



**In need of aid:** Peacocks among the animals showcased the Kulim Bird Park.