



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Let animals roam free in our forests

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The villagers were understandably worried for their safety.

Village head Sharudin Idris, said in a recent interview that the animals had been coming over since last August to forage for fruits like bananas and jackfruit, which were also planted in the estate.

These and other similar complaints have kept the Pahang Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) busy.

Among the methods used by the agency to deal with the issue is the relocation of wild elephants that pose a danger to villagers.

However, we must remember that the clash between man and fauna is a sign of encroachment of human civilisation into the highlands, forests, lakes and rivers that crisscrossed the state since time immemorial.

It is imperative that the authorities raise awareness about this issue so that residents would not resort to killing animals, but instead report them to the department.

Praise must be given to initiatives, such as the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary, which not only houses orphaned elephants and helps relocate them, but also is a tourist attraction in Lanchang, Pahang.

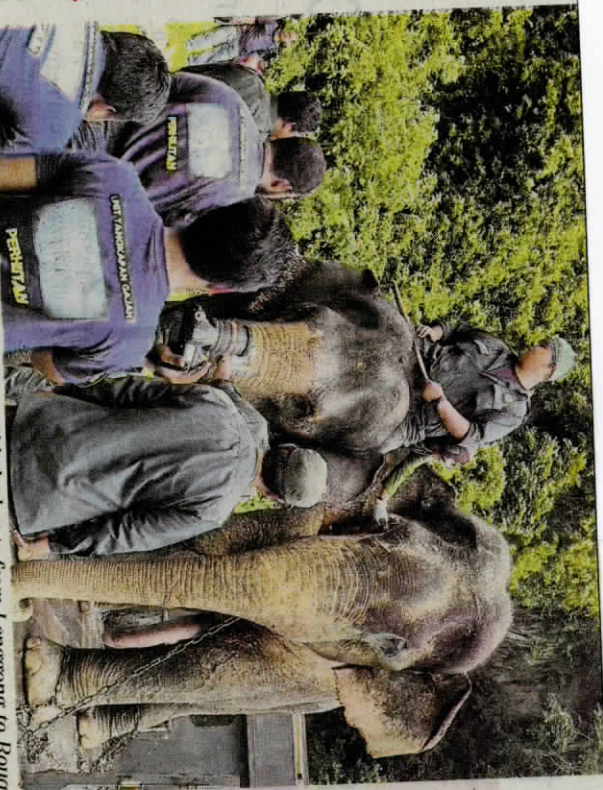
The wildlife of Pahang is also part

of the natural ecosystem that made the state attractive for human settlement in the first place, therefore it is important that we ensure that these animals can continue to roam the forests in the state.

The authorities can consider setting up electric-fencing to protect plantations of vulnerable villages to minimise conflict between man and wildlife.

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The writer is Pahang staff correspondent. He seeks pleasure in contemplative pursuits like viewing thought-provoking documentaries and reading



Wildlife Department officers relocating wild elephants from Lenggong to Royal Belum National Park. Residents must not resort to killing these animals, but instead report them to the authorities.