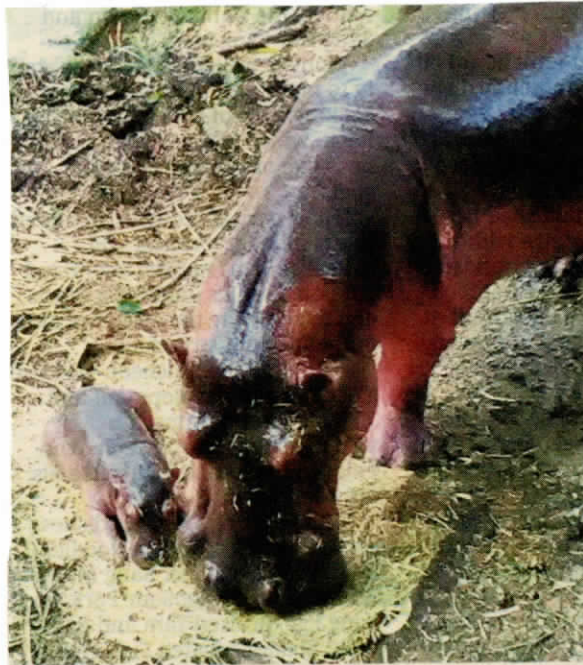




KERATAN AKHBAR

KHBAR	:	THE STAR (STARMETRO)			
TARIKH	:	5/1/2017	MUKA SURAT	:	14
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			



The yet-to-be-named month-old baby hippopotamus with its mother, Lek, at the Taiping Zoo, Perak.

New baby hippopotamus brings joy to Taiping zoo

TAIPING

THE Taiping Zoo ended 2016 with a bang by welcoming a baby hippopotamus to its stable of wildlife.

Born on Dec 12 to 20-year-old parents Lek and April, the healthy baby is believed to weigh between 40kg and 50kg.

Taiping Municipal Council president Datuk Abdul Rahim Md Ariff said the sex of the baby had yet to be determined as zoo staff cannot get close to it yet.

"Hippopotamuses are territorial and dangerous animals and we cannot approach them.

"We have also yet to name it and have decided to allow visitors to do it," he said during Taiping Municipal Council full board meet-

ing on Friday.

"We will be having a special event in January to do so," he added.

Abdul Rahim said both the mother and baby are doing well after an eight-month gestation period.

"The baby is still dependent on its mother's milk. It will spend about 90% of its time in the water and sleep 13 hours daily," he said.

Abdul Rahim said the baby's parents were the only hippopotamuses in the zoo at present.

He said Lek, the female hippopotamus, was brought in from a zoo in Thailand while April was born in the Taiping zoo.

He added that there were now some 1,400 animals with 130 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes living in the zoo.