



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	THE STAR (STARMETRO)			
TARIKH	:	31/5/2017	MUKA SURAT	:	13
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Programme to protect Malayan sun bear

MELAKA

MELAKA Zoo and Night Safari will hold an awareness programme on the Malayan sun bear to instil a sense of responsibility towards the protection of the species as local wildlife.

Its chief executive officer, R. Raja Segaran, said the programme until June 4 involved the nature and habitat of the sun bear, as well as educating the people that the animal was a protected species in Malaysia.

He said many people did not realise that keeping protected and endangered wildlife was illegal and against the law.

"The Melaka Zoo and Night Safari has decided to come up with this awareness programme after it was recently presented with a sun bear cub by a member of the public, which was raised illegally as a pet at home.

"This reflects the fact that many people still lack understanding that keeping the sun bear as a pet at home or removing them from their natural habitat is against the law," he said.

The Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), also known as honey bear, is the smallest, least known and one of the rarest



The programme aims to make people aware that removing the sun bear from their natural habitat is against the law. — filepic

of bear species. Their population in this country is threatened by loss of habitat and illegal hunting.

Currently, the Melaka Zoo and Night Safari has six Malayan sun bears on its premises, namely three males and three females which are put on display on rotation. — Bernama