



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	14/7/2021 (RABU)	MUKA SURAT	:	11
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			

WORTH RM1.5 MILLION

NST, 14 Jul
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SEIZED MEAT FOR ZOOS, WILDLIFE HUBS

54 tonnes of frozen meat intercepted by Maqis to feed animals

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FIFTY-FOUR tonnes of frozen meat worth RM1.5 million confiscated by the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (Maqis) have been distributed to feed animals in zoos and wildlife conservation centres.

Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said the meat, illegally imported from various countries, were seized during checks by Maqis here between February and April, and had undergone legal process under Sections 11(1) and 15(1) of the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2011.

The products were handed to representatives from agencies under the Wildlife and National Parks Department, Taiping Zoo in Perak, Melaka Zoo, Lost World of Tambun and National Wildlife Rescue Centre in Perak.

A portion of the haul was also distributed to the Penor (Pahang), Pengkalan Chepa (Kelantan) and Marang (Terengganu) Prisons for their catfish farming projects.

Kiandee said the government would review the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2011 to address leakages involving meat imports, such as



Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (right) at the handing over of the meat to various agencies in Port Klang yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY MINISTRY

transit and transhipment of meat imports.

"The cabinet committee on the National Food Security Policy, chaired by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, on June 8 agreed on proposals to boost monitoring of meat imports.

"At the same time, the Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry is also mulling the establishment of a one-stop quarantine centre (OSQC) to strengthen the biosecurity and food security

aspects, in line with the national food security agenda."

He said the proposed OSQC was to address risks of diseases brought by imported meat.

The centre, he said, would ensure that imported and exported agrofood products underwent inspection and quarantine process according to international standards.

He said the proposed centre would have five functions — detecting viruses/microorganisms

carrying out disinfection, as a quarantine centre, quarantine certification and preventing illegal activities.

"Apart from infrastructure development and facilities, it will also include the proposed development of its own information technology system to assist in traceability and automation.

"Apart from enhancing the country's biosecurity and food security, the OSQC will encourage economic development and

businesses, especially agrofood products and e-commerce, as well as boost their marketability at the international level."

The *New Straits Times* last year reported on a meat smuggling ring in the country that had been running for more than 40 years.

A large-scale probe by the authorities later revealed the involvement of officials in facilitating the importation of non-certified meat into Malaysia and passing it off as halal

