



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Seven wildlife offenders nabbed in first 15 days of 2020 in Sabah

KOTA KINABALU: Seven wildlife offenders have been arrested in the first 15 days of this year through joint operations mounted by the General Operations Force, Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Christina Liew said while the success was extremely encouraging, the questions about the offenders' partners, their networks and resources to perpetrate these crimes need to be answered.

Liew, who is also Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister, said wildlife-related crimes were not just a local problem but often part of an international wildlife trade syndicate associated with drug and human trafficking, as well as money laundering.

"We must continue the synergy. By working together with NGOs, private sector and government agencies, as well as having cross-border cooperation, we will succeed in ending these senseless crimes.

"I am certain that in Sabah we have very capable, dedicated and passionate people who are working endlessly on increasing our intelligence and forensic capabilities to curb wildlife crimes," she said at the opening of the workshop on "Illegal Wildlife Trade and Counteracting Measures in Sabah" here, which was also attended by United States Embassy deputy chief of mission Dean Thompson.

Liew's speech was read out by the permanent secretary of Sabah Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Dr Jamili Nais.

Thompson meanwhile said the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement was funding various programmes to confront and combat wildlife crimes.

He said the workshop marked the beginning of a two-year programme with RM4mil funding in partnership with the Danau Girang Field Centre and Sabah Wildlife Department.

"It is to help boost Sabah's wildlife enforcement capacity and expertise and encourage inter-agency coordination among the law enforcement and NGO organisations." —Bernama