



KERATAN AKHBAR

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| SURAT KHABAR | : | SUNDAY STAR | | | |
| TARIKH | : | 10/2/2019 | MUKA SURAT | : | 3 |
| JABATAN | : | PERHILITAN | | | |
| KLASIFIKASI | : | PERHATIAN | | | |

Wildlife and animal body parts worth RM8.4mil seized

Perhatian: PERHILITAN The Star mlc 3 10/2/2019



Major wildlife haui Omar examining the frozen pangolin meat that was confiscated from the shipping containers at Kampung Bontoi in Tamparuli. — Bernama

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KOTA KINABALU: Animal body parts and meat, as well as live endangered wildlife, worth RM8.4mil have been seized from a factory in Sepanggar near here.

Among others, there were 1,860 boxes of frozen pangolins, live pangolins, 361kg of pangolin scales, bear claws and flying foxes.

They were found stored in three shipping containers on Thursday, said Sabah police chief Datuk Omar Mammah.

A 35-year-old man was nabbed, he said, adding that another 35 live pangolins were found inside his car boot.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Omar said the man was believed to be part of a syndicate that has been involved in smuggling exotic animals for the past seven years.

He said the suspect could have been dealing with illegal hunters to get the supply.
“The man, who operates the fac-

tory, is believed to have gotten his supplies from all over Sabah, before they are sent to the factory to be processed, packed and sold,” he said.

He said the police would investigate whether other people were involved, adding that they would pursue the illegal hunters as well.

The operation was conducted by the police and Wildlife Department enforcement officials.

Sabah Wildlife Department director Augustine Tuuga, who was present at the press conference, said the department has yet to make a detailed record on the total population of pangolins in Sabah.

He said these animals were totally protected species but were usually hunted by poachers for their scales and other body parts.

These parts were wanted by some users who believed they contained health properties, he said, adding that there was no scientific proof to these claims.

The seized live pangolins will be handed over to the Wildlife Department for further action.