



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

## KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR		
TARIKH	:	3/8/2021 (SELASA)	MUKA SURAT	: 10
JABATAN	:	JABATAN HIDUPAN LIAR SABAH		

The Star, 3 Ogos  
2021\_10

# 'Don't plant fruit trees'

## Wildlife dept advises residents on monkey management

By STEPHANIE LEE  
stephanielee@thestar.com.my

**KOTA KINABALU:** The public may want to consider not planting fruit trees that monkeys love, to prevent the primates from entering their backyards and homes, says Sabah Wildlife Department Augustine Tuuga.

He said these measures may be troublesome but would be worth it if the public did not want monkeys to keep disrupting their lives or stealing their food.

"Maybe this is the easiest way to co-exist with monkeys," he suggested when asked how people could live in harmony with monkeys in view of the increasing presence of these animals even in the city.

Tuuga said although the department's job of catching and chasing monkeys away from homes and farms dates back decades, there was an increase in reports of human encounters with these animals.

"It could be due to development, and these past couple of years, the movement control orders are seeing more people staying home instead of being out and about," he added.

Tuuga said it had become a daily routine for rangers to chase, trap and send monkeys further away from residential areas in Beaufort, Tuaran, and many other places.

"Sometimes, we get reports of



**Fellow residents:**  
An example of monkeys and humans co-existing, in this file photo, can be found at Bukit Kiara park.  
— IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

monkeys sneaking into people's backyards, eating their plants and fruits while some steal food from inside houses. Even in Bandar Berjaya, shop owners and tenants complain about monkeys as there is a small jungle nearby," he added.

Tuuga said that since monkeys pose an extremely low threat to human safety, the department has no reason to deliberately trap and kill the animals.

Meanwhile, a resident in Penampang said she rears dogs to keep the monkeys away.

"I also installed window and door

grilles to prevent them from coming in, but will not resort to poisoning these animals to keep them away," said Nozilla Mijoh, 62.

Residents in Beaufort said they are used to having monkeys coming near their property, up to the point where now they are like "friends".

Aishah Abdullah, 80, of Kg Luagan said monkeys have been coming into her village for as long as she can remember. She said her fruit trees were always "taken care of" by the monkeys as they would come and eat the fruits even before they ripened.

"We used to have dogs to chase them away a long time ago, but now the dogs around here have also become friends with the monkeys," she said.

Aishah added that though the monkeys could be a nuisance and sometimes entered her home and grabbed food, they have never hurt her or anyone in her family.

"I have given up chasing them away or calling wildlife rangers because they just keep coming back.

"So, I guess the only way is to let them be and only chase them as and when they come," she said.