



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	10/10/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	6
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Wildlife parts seized in S'wak



Large haul: Some of the antlers and hornbill feathers as well as hornbill ivory (right) that were seized during the raid in Kapit.

Man caught with hornbill ivory, feathers and bear bile

By SHARON LING
sharonling@thestar.com.my

KUCHING: A man was arrested on the spot while hundreds of wildlife parts, including hornbill ivory and feathers, peacock feathers and bear bile, were seized in a raid in the interior town of Kapit last weekend.

"A 56-year-old suspect was caught red-handed and a report made to the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission when he offered a bribe to the enforcement officer not to take action against him," said Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) chairman Datuk Len Talif Salleh.

He said during the raid at one of the premises in the town on Saturday, enforcement officers confiscated 148 pieces of hornbill ivory, 192 pieces of peacock feathers, 152 pieces of hornbill feathers, 16 pieces of pangolin scales, 183 pieces of bear bile, 96 pieces of porcupine quills, six deer antlers, three kijang (barking deer) antlers and other wildlife parts yet to be identified.

Speaking at the opening of a workshop on illegal wildlife trade here yesterday, Len Talif said SFC enforcement personnel also seized

“ We have to be vigilant to prevent illegal wildlife trade, especially along the Sarawak-Kalimantan border which can be porous.

Datuk Len Talif Salleh

wild animals and parts being sold at the Teresang market in Kapit.

"They included 35kg of softshell turtle meat, a live softshell turtle, peacock feather, deer and kijang antlers, and a bear skull," he said.

Later, he said the seized wildlife parts were mainly meant for locals as they were sold in the market.

However, he said some of those parts might have ended up in the international market, especially bear bile, which is sought after for

use in traditional medicine.

Asked about the value of the seized wildlife, Len Talif said there was no estimated figure yet as the investigation was still ongoing.

To another question, he said no connections had been established so far between the suspect and international syndicates.

"I presume there are connections. If there is no demand, there will be no illegal trade. In Sarawak, we have managed to contain it but still it happens," he said.

Len Talif, who is also Assistant Minister for Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment, said it was important for the state to step up monitoring and enforcement against illegal wildlife trade before it became bigger.

He said pangolins were among the commonly traded wildlife in Sarawak while there were cases of sun bears being kept as pets, including two rescued in Demak Laut and Serian last month.

"We have to be vigilant to prevent illegal wildlife trade, especially along the Sarawak-Kalimantan border which can be very porous.

"We have to prevent any sale of our wildlife to the other side of the border," he said.