KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

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Crackdown on illegal gold mining in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: Forestry and other enforcement officials are working together to identify the extent of illegal gold mining in Sabah.

This comes following the confiscation of what is believed to be gold mining tools during the recent *Ops Khazanah* in Lahad Datu.

Sabah Forestry Department's chief conservator of forests Frederick Kugan said the extent of such activities would only be known after a thorough investigation.

"For now, I think this is the first raid of its kind in Sabah so far this year. We will need a thorough investigation to be done," he said when contacted.

In the 8am Sunday operation, General Operations Force (GOF) personnel came across the gold mining tools stored in between large exposed roots of a timber tree near Sungai Bole Ulu Segama-Malua, Lahad Datu.

There were also food and clothes, but no suspects were caught.

Sabah GOF commander SAC Abdul Rani Alias said the items were believed to belong to illegal gold miners.

Officials later destroyed the seized items.

A police report was subsequently lodged for record purposes, apart from allowing the other relevant investigating authorities to take action.



Activity unearthed: Enforcement officials inspecting mining tools and other seized items in Lahad Datu.