KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES			
TARIKH	:	05.04.22	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			

News in brief

Restaurant owner pays poacher RM200 to save pangolin

OLIVIA MIWIL
KOTA KINABALU
olivia@nst.com.my

A RESTAURATEUR here bought a pangolin from a poacher to rescue the animal before handing it to the authorities.

KK Beaufort Restaurant owner Vincent Heng said he received an anonymous phone call about 1pm on Saturday offering to sell the mammal.

The poacher had told him that the pangolin was captured either in Kimanis or Papar.

"I am not sure how he got my number, probably through our Facebook page as we are aggressively advertising our restaurant.

"Poachers usually will call Chinese restaurants as they know that some would serve it, but I don't as I know it is prohibited and sinful. And I love wildlife and forests.

"Since the pangolin is still small, weighing about 2kg, I negotiated with the seller for a discounted price of RM200," he said, adding that the pangolin appeared weak when he received it about 4pm, and he handed it to the Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit the same day.

It was the first time he was seeing the protected animal closely, adding that he had been approached several times by poachers trying to sell pangolins.

Heng said poachers would usually sell the pangolins to the highest bidders.

"The sale of pangolins is still rampant as they are rare and some believe the animal has medicinal value.

"Despite knowing the pangolins are a protected species, some restaurants are still buying them, especially if they have regular customers who eat pangolins."

Sabah Wildlife Department director Augustine Tuuga said the wildlife rescue unit had treated the animal at the clinic.

He said the pangolin was active and responsive after being treated and given food.



A staff member of the Sabah Wildlife Department's Wildlife Rescue Unit treating the pangolin that was rescued from a poacher. PIC COURTESY OF WILDLIFE RESCUE UNIT