KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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Proposal to enhance penalty for poaching

The Sun 27 Okt 2021_2

ENERGY and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan has proposed that the maximum fine for poaching of endangered wildlife be doubled to RM1 million and prison sentences be raised from 10 to 15 years.

He said this is necessary given that the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 has failed to deter criminals from harming protected animal species.

"Low penalties and fines have not imparted lessons to offenders."

He said the Wildlife Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2021, if passed and gazetted, will provide greater protection not just for wildlife but also their habitats.

"This will be the first amendment to the Act that will align it to technological developments and current issues," he said when tabling the Bill for second reading.

Takiyuddin said there are no provisions now to act against individuals who advertise the sale of wildlife online, which has motivated poachers to exploit protected species and sell them on social media platforms and through e-commerce.

He expressed confidence that the new legislation will be able to ensure wildlife conservation through tighter control and better management.

He added stricter enforcement will protect and conserve wildlife more efficiently and effectively.