

Headline	Cops take down jumbo hunters		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	14 Mar 2018	Color	Full Color
Section	Nation	Circulation	338,368
Page No	16	Readership	1,032,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	376 cm ²
Journalist	IVAN LOH	AdValue	RM 18,995
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 56,986



Cops take down jumbo hunters

Four held and illegal guns seized after discovery of dead elephant

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GERIK: The police have arrested four men and seized firearms along with hunting equipment used in illegal hunts here.

This followed the discovery of a 30-year-old male elephant which was shot dead at Hutan Piah, about 15km from Jalan Gerik-Kuala Kangsar, here on Sunday.

Bukit Aman Internal Security and Public Order director Comm Datuk Seri Zulkifli Abdullah said a 40-man raiding team, including police and Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) officers, arrested the four, aged between 40 and 49, at various locations.

"One of them led police to a house in Kampung Padang Jeri where they found two rifles, two home-made shotguns, 255 bullets, wire traps, machetes, chainsaw and other equipment used for hunting.

"Police also seized RM10,500, a deer horn and seven bone pieces believed to be from a tiger," he told a press conference here.

Comm Zulkifli said those arrested included a 44-year-old contractor from Kuala Lumpur, who works with the **Forest Research Institute Malaysia**, a 40-year-old backhoe operator from Kota Baru, Kelantan, a 49-year-old latex seller from Lenggong and a rubber tapper, 40, from here.

"The latex seller has two criminal cases for extortion, he said.



Stopped in its tracks: The dead male elephant was found fatally shot in the head in Hutan Piah, some 15km off the main road of Jalan Gerik-Kuala Kangsar.

"All four suspects will be remanded until March 18 to be investigated for possessing illegal firearms, unlicensed weapons or ammunitions and also for carrying weapons in public," he added.

Comm Zulkifli said one of the suspects had admitted to selling an elephant tusk to a middleman at the border of Rantau Panjang

for RM12,000.

"The market value for a tusk is between RM200 and RM400 per 100g, based on demand.

"From the suspect's account, he started hunting illegally since 2009," he said, adding that the police believed that some 20 elephants have been killed by the suspects.

"A post-mortem conducted by

Perhilitan at its forensics department in Cheras showed that the animal was shot twice in the head and once on its right buttock," he added.

Comm Zulkifli appealed to the public and related non-governmental organisations for information with regards to illegal hunting activities.