



## KERATAN AKHBAR ONLINE



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### Nature Alert out to tarnish Perhilitan and NRE

March 7, 2013

**FMT LETTER:** From Abd Rashid Samsudin, via e-mail

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan) would like to refer to all complaints and allegations from Sean Whyte. Based on the letters and media releases published earlier, we did not fail to note that the CEO of Nature Alert, a foreign based NGO has continuously and maliciously been using the local media to attack the Department of Wildlife and National Parks on issues pertaining to wildlife management, conservation and the implementation of Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.

While we acknowledged those pertinent issues raised needed action, we've come to realise that Nature Alert has a different agenda altogether to discredit and tarnish Malaysia on biodiversity conservation efforts, especially those undertaken by this department on wildlife management and the implementation of the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.

It seems all our reasoning, actions and responses are unacceptable to Nature Alert unless they are aligned to his intentions. Nature Alert never ceases to take cheap shots at the department and NRE citing that the department and NRE officials as corrupt and in alliance with zoo operators and wildlife traders.

Nature Alert even took the liberty to discredit Malaysian ministers and government officials. Despite all this, the CEO of Nature Alert has refused to come over to Malaysia on an invitation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment to formally discuss and take in conservation programmes that he supposedly champions by calling himself the 'Ape Crusaders.'

We would like to extend our invitation to him again to come forward and engage with us in resolving his concerns, if those concerns are thoroughly genuine. We believe funding for his trip here will not be an issue at all because he can afford to employ and sponsor his locally unregistered NGOs as runners here.

Therefore, we would like to tell him to stop flooding the media with accusations, and start to work with us with a sincere heart and intention. Please, do take up this offer and come forward with all the proof that you have. We will arrange a meet that will include other relevant agencies as well.

We would treat this as the last offer. if he chooses not to take up the offer then this department will assume that he is not genuine or sincere in conserving Malaysian biodiversity. Then we would like to take this opportunity to inform him that enough is enough and there will be no more media communication with him. We will no longer entertain nor reply to any of Nature Alerts complaints.

The writer has declined all our invitation/consultation sessions and continues with the malicious statements on the department. Thus, this indicates that the writer is not sincere in wildlife conservation. All of his complaints and allegations are just for the mere purpose of satisfying their insatiable appetite and agenda

to tarnish the good efforts and hard works done by the department and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Nevertheless, this will not dampen our spirit and we will do our best in alliance with fellow Malaysian stakeholders in the interest of our country to become a nation that conserves and protects her wildlife biodiversity with the support of our public, local NGOs and other stakeholders. In this regard, we also welcome feedbacks, constructive criticisms and suggestions to further improve ways of managing our wildlife and its welfare.

*The writer is Director General, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perhilitan)*