

19 FEBRUARI 2023

THREAT TO ORANG ASLI

Tame pachyderms used in op to catch wild bull elephant

LIPIS: The National Elephant Conservation Centre in Kuala Gandah, Lanchang, will relocate a bull elephant estimated to be 44 years old that was captured in Kampung Simoi Lama, near here, on Friday.

The pachyderm from the Ulu Jelai Forest Reserve is believed to be part of a herd of elephants that encroached on vegetable gardens and threatened the safety of the Orang Asli community in several settlements.

The centre's chief, Che Ku Mohd Zamzuri Chik Wan Ab Rahman, yesterday said the operation to capture the bull elephant, which had a foot circumference of 42.4cm, was carried out by members of the Elephant Capture Unit, with the help of staff from the Pahang Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan).

He said the three-tonne elephant was caught on Tuesday after residents claimed the animal invaded their vegetable garden.

He said the elephant had been separated from its herd and was healthy.

"We dragged the wild elephant about 1km away, then loaded it onto a lorry and travelled 8km through a logging road to reach the exit. The operation started at 9am and was completed about four hours later.

"Two tame elephants, Kasturi and Rambai, were used to persuade and pull the wild elephant onto the lorry.

"A total of 26 personnel from the centre and Pahang Perhilitan



Two tame elephants, Kasturi and Rambai, were used to 'persuade' a wild bull elephant to get onto a lorry for relocation in Kampung Simoi Lama, near Lipis, on Friday. PIC COURTESY OF NATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION CENTRE

were involved in the operation."

He said the male elephant would be released at a location far away from human settlements and with abundant food sources.

He said the operation in Kampung Simoi Lama on Friday was the third such operation the centre carried out in Pahang this year.

The previous two operations were in Kampung Teruh, Karak.

"The operation to capture and relocate the male elephant in Kampung Simoi Lama was carried out after it attacked Orang Asli residents in Pos Betau and Pos Senderut, killing two people."

Last month, a male elephant

attacked and trampled to death an Orang Asli teenager, Andy Yok Manin, 15, in Kampung Tual B, Pos Senderut.

The herd of elephants is also believed to have attacked and trampled to death an Orang Asli woman in Kampung Simoi Baru, Pos Betau, on Dec 7 last year.