

Indonesian jailed for possessing over 2,000 turtle eggs



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KUCHING: The Sessions Court here has sentenced an Indonesian man to 12 months in prison for possessing 2,253 marine turtle eggs at a homestay in Serikin, Bau.

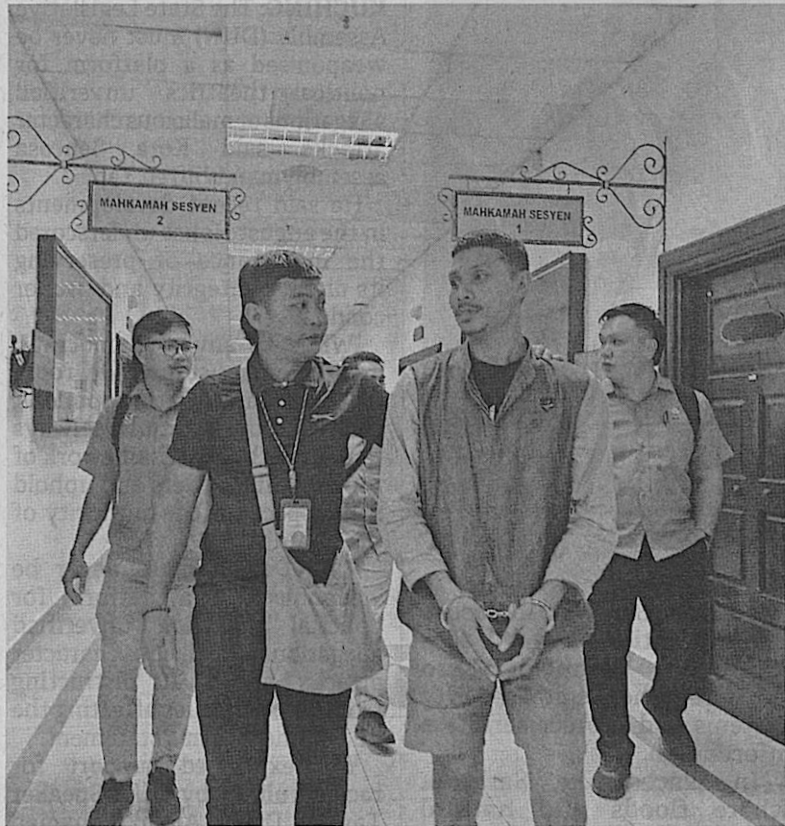
Judge Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar convicted Supianto, 36, on his own guilty plea to a charge framed under Section 37(1)(a) of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998, punishable under Sections 37(2)(a) and 29(1)(c) of the same Ordinance.

The offence carries a penalty of up to two years in prison and a fine of RM25,000 for each individual animal, part, or derivative, upon conviction.

Based on the facts of the case, a team from Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and Marine Police Force Region 5 Kuching officers conducted Ops Bersepadu Khazanah at a homestay in Serikin at around 1pm on May 16, following intelligence reports.

During the raid, Supianto was arrested on suspicion of illegally possessing marine turtle eggs.

A search of the premises uncovered 2,253 marine turtle eggs, which are classified as parts and derivatives of a totally



SFC personnel escort Supianto at the court. — Photo by Hafizah Abdul Hamid

protected animal under the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998.

The eggs were found in several baskets and boxes wrapped in black plastic.

The raiding team also seized RM2,393 (including 43 pieces of RM50 banknotes), a SIM card, and a mobile phone.

Investigations revealed the eggs belonged to the Cheloniidae species, which is listed under the First Schedule of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998.

Prosecuting officer Leonard Baring appeared for the prosecution while Supianto did not have legal representation.