

MARKAS OPERASI
PASUKAN POLIS MARIN
LAWAN MAU SABAH



Tawau Region 4 Marine Police commanding officer Deputy Superintendent Mohd Nazari Ismail (second from right) showing the seized baby turtles. PIC BY ABDUL RAHEMANG TAIMING

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Marine police foil attempt to smuggle 4,000 baby turtles

TAWAU

THE Marine Police Force foiled an attempt to smuggle 4,000 live baby pig-nosed turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*) worth RM1 million into Tawau from a neighbouring country, through Sungai Haji Kuning, Sebatik Island, near here, on Tuesday.

Tawau Region 4 Marine Police commanding officer Deputy Superintendent Mohd Nazari Ismail said enforcement operations personnel detected a boat operated by an Indonesian man, travelling from Sungai Haji Kuning to Tawau, at 10am.

Upon inspecting the boat, officers found

three large pieces of luggage and two boxes containing 39 plastic containers with 4,000 turtles inside.

According to preliminary investigations, the 38-year-old suspect had valid travel documents and claimed to have been duped by a man driving a taxi in the Sungai Haji Kuning area, who had asked him to take the luggage and boxes to Tawau.

"The suspect, who did not know the contents of the luggage and boxes, agreed to do so for RM50," Nazari said, adding that the turtles were to be sent to Semporna.

One turtle can fetch up to RM250.

The case is being investigated under Section 41 (2) of the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997. **Bernama**