

Dept to obtain right to export bird's nest

THE Department of Veterinary Services Sabah (DVS) is in the final stage to obtain approval for the right to export edible bird's nests without going through Putrajaya, said Deputy Chief Minister cum Agriculture and Fishery Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey Kitingan.

Jeffrey said the approval would ease the export of edible bird's nests and promote the development of the industry.

Moving forward, he said the ministry was studying the possibility to set up a Sabah Bird's Nest Industry Board to develop the industry more effectively.

In his discussion with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Jeffrey said he was informed that Sabah produced the best bird's nests in the world.

He said the bird's nest industry was a high-impact industry that could potentially be a new source of wealth.

There are two types of edible bird's nest, namely cave bird's nest and house bird's nest (RBW).

He estimated 8,985 RBW in Sabah while the registered figure was 2,485 premises.

"This industry is capable of producing an estimated 215 metric tonnes of bird's nest annually worth RM860 million," he said in his winding-up speech at the State Legislative Assembly yesterday.

In 2021, Jeffrey said DVS targeted to register 500 premises, and 100 premises to obtain the Malaysian Good Agriculture Practice (MyGAP) certification as well as four factories to obtain the Good Veterinary Hygienic Practice (GVHP).

On the other hand, he said a rubber gloves manufacturing plant was expected to be set up at Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP) in 2021.