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NGOs laud closure of zoo

PETALING JAYA: Environmental NGOs have applauded the move by the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) to close the controversial Saleng Zoo.

Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (Acres) president and founder Louis Ng said he was overjoyed to hear of action being taken to remove the animals.

“It is an important first step forward and is a good indication of things to come.

“We believe we are taking one step at a time and the closure of Saleng Zoo is a closure of one of the worst zoos in Malaysia,” he told *The Star*.

He added that Acres had even offered the department help to relocate the tigers and lions at the zoo.

TRAFFIC South-East Asia senior communications officer Elizabeth John said the move to close the zoo was very much welcomed.

“We hope that the many long-standing court cases against the zoo will be expedited.

“We also hope that this is done to all other zoos which have pending suits against them,” she said.

A spokesman from the Asian Nature Conservation said the zoo was one of the worst with its poor records.

“They do not even have enough keepers!

“They only have three to take care of all the animals

“It was a long time coming but we are happy that the department has finally acted,” she said.

Perhilitan had rejected the renewal of the privately-run zoo's permit as its officials felt that the zoo was unsuitable for animals.