



KERATAN AKHBAR

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MB: Lenggong Geopark will not be a white elephant

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LENGGONG: Short- and long-term plans are being prepared by various parties to ensure that the Lenggong Geopark can be developed and not become a white elephant, says Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Saarani Mohamad. He said the development would be done in a way to ensure that the local community would benefit.

"When the Lenggong Geopark receives recognition in July, we are already prepared," he told reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony for the Lenggong Geopark Gallery project yesterday.

Also in attendance was Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

Lenggong Geopark is expected to be declared the second national geopark site, after Kinna Geopark, in July.

Earlier in his speech, Saarani said the development of the geopark was in line with the state government's policy to enhance sustainable development and management of

economic, social and natural resources.

It was also in line with the policy of sustainable physical development by developing land use in an integrated manner and preserving natural resources in the state, he added.

Shamsul Anuar said the development in the geopark site would spur ecotourism, providing impact at the state as well as national levels.

"We are evaluating more than 50 tourism industry players here following the recognition of the Lenggong Geopark (as the second geopark site)," he added.

On the Lenggong Geopark Gallery, he said the RM2mil project was a joint venture between his ministry and the Albukhary Foundation to develop and preserve diversity, and conserve the forest, wildlife and environment in the area.

He said the gallery would provide information on diverse geology, archaeology and history as well as local culture for visitors. — Bernama



Local resources: (From second left) Saarani and Shamsul Anuar visiting an exhibit after the ground-breaking ceremony for the Lenggong Geopark Gallery project in Kota Tampan, Lenggong. — Bernama