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| KERATAN AKHBAR |
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| AKHBAR | : | THE STAR | | | |
| TARIKH | : | 3/1/2020 | MUKA SURAT | : | 8 |
| JABATAN | : | JPSM / PERHILITAN | | | |
| KLASIFIKASI | : | PERHATIAN | | | |

Move to manage Sarawak's forests and wildlife more effectively

KUCHING: Sarawak's forests and wildlife will be managed more effectively following the restructuring of the state Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg said the restructuring, which was approved by the state Cabinet on Dec 12 and came into effect yesterday, would enhance the Forest Department's role in sustainable forest management.

He said the department would take over SFC's functions under the Forests Ordinance 2015, including managing forests, research and development, compliance, revenue collection and planted forests.

At the same time, SFC will manage national

parks and wildlife protection under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998 and Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998.

"The reason is we want to have focus. We want to develop our forestry industry and this is within the ambit of the Forest Department.

"Before this, it was managed by SFC which to me is not an ideal arrangement.

"It must be monitored and supervised by the Forest Department," Abang Johari said after witnessing the handover of duties between both agencies at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here yesterday.

He said the Forest Department was the right authority to regulate forests and engage with the international community on forestry issues.