



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Sultan of Kedah Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah and his consort, Sultanah Malthia Tengku Ariff (left), after the declaration of Jerai Geopark as a national geopark in Yan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

ROYAL INAUGURATION

National status for Jerai Geopark

JERAI: The Jerai Geopark here was renamed and inaugurated as a national geopark yesterday in conjunction with the 29th Sultan of Kedah's coronation.

The inauguration was proclaimed by Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah in a ceremony at the foot of Gunung Jerai here. Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar said the effort to designate Gunung Jerai as a geopark began in 2016 and was approved last

year.

"To date, there are only 140 United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) global geoparks."

He said with Jerai Geopark, the Langkawi Unesco Global Geopark would no longer be the only national geopark in the country. Sultanah Kedah Sultanah Malthia Tengku Ariff and Raja Muda of Kedah Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah Sultan Sallehuddin graced the event. They were accompa-

nied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

Dr Xavier said the 800sq km Jerai Geopark spanned two districts — Yan and Kuala Muda.

"Scientifically, this area lies within the geo-diversion of the Jerai Formation, Mahabang Formation and Jerai Granite.

"The 550-million-year-old Jerai rock formation is the highest at 1,217m above sea level, making Gunung Jerai unique with very high geological heritage value."