

Not a bear-y good feeling on Nuan Nuan going home



A visitor takes a picture of Xing Xing doing what it does best — relaxing at the panda pen in Zoo Negara. — Picture by Firdaus Latif

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KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia-born panda Nuan Nuan will be returning to China next month.

While visitors to Zoo Negara are happy for Nuan Nuan, they are also disheartened the adorable cub would no longer be a permanent resident at the national zoo.

Student Hanis Nazuhah from SM (Agama) Parit Batu in Sabak Bernam said yesterday was the first time she was able to see the pandas.

“I was amazed when I first saw them. I have seen pandas on TV but seeing them up close was interesting,” said the 16-year-old who was unaware Nuan Nuan was a product of the pandas in captivity in Zoo Negara.

“I never knew they could grow up to such a size. Nuan Nuan was nowhere to be seen but I hope they bring her out for the visitors before she goes back to China.”

Schoolmate Siti Zuraini Mohamad initially thought the cub was going to be sent to China along with her parents, Xing Xing and Liang Liang.

“I am sad to hear that the family would be separated for the rest of their lives,” she said, adding that they were visiting the zoo as part of a school trip.

New Zealander Neil Domijin was seen studying the behaviour of Xing Xing and Liang Liang.

“This was the first time I’m seeing pandas but I did watch a programme on pandas called ‘Panda Protection in China,’” he said.

“It’s a good thing for Nuan Nuan to be sent to China if she can be better protected there. “I’m looking forward to also seeing the orang utan, which is among other creatures that I can’t find back at home,” he added, before resuming his stroll to get a better view of the pandas.

Filipina Dayle Mugas, who was on vacation with friends, said they were having fun trying to get the pandas’ attention, hoping they would come off their stationary positions and

slide down the tree.

On her views about Nuan Nuan being sent back to China, she said the baby panda should be sent to China, along with her parents.

“Even though that would mean this zoo won’t have any pandas, it shouldn’t be a problem considering they have so many other animals here,” she said.

As there are no pandas in her country’s zoos, she was among many who were seeing pandas for the first time.

Born in the Giant Panda Conservation Centre in Zoo Negara last August, Nuan Nuan is now getting ready to return to a home she has never seen, and will hopefully continue to grow in the best kind of environment for pandas — among her kind.