



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR			
TARIKH	:	16/3/2021	MUKA SURAT	:	4
JABATAN	:	JPSM			
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>			

The Star  
16/3/2021  
M/S 4

**Special sighting:**  
Joseph with the blooming Rafflesia at Gunung Gading National Park in Kuching.  
— ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/  
The Star



# S'wak park ranger spots rare Rafflesia in bloom

**KUCHING:** It was a rare sight at Gunung Gading National Park here when the Rafflesia, the world's largest flower, was found to be in bloom.

Park ranger Jerom Joseph said the flower, measuring 72cm in diameter, was located in a research site at the park but was not open to the public for viewing.

He said the flower, which began blooming last week, was the first one he had come across this year.

"The last time I saw a Rafflesia in bloom was in August last year," he added.

Joseph, who has been working at the park since 1999, monitors the areas in the park where the Rafflesia grows to see if any are in bloom.

"Each month, I will check the flower, gather data and measure it. "If there is a bud, it will usually

take about six months to bloom," Joseph said.

He added that the largest flower he had seen at the park was one measuring 98cm wide in 2000 or 2001.

Located in Lundu, some 103km from here, the park was gazetted in 1983 to conserve the Rafflesia, a totally protected plant under Sarawak's Wildlife Protection Ordinance.

A parasitic plant, the Rafflesia usually blooms for four to six days only.

When in full bloom, it emits a carrion-like odour to attract flies and other insects that pollinate the plant.

Besides the Rafflesia Tuan Mudae, a species endemic to Sarawak, Gunung Gading is also known for its waterfalls and jungle trekking.