

Largest tropical rainforest tree exhibition

KUALALUMPUR: Those who have yet to visit the largest tropical rainforest tree species exhibition here can still do so, as the Hutan Kita exhibition at the Kuala Lumpur Tower is ongoing until Sunday.

The exhibition was certified by the *Malaysia Book of Records* (MBOR) as the largest such exhibition in the country.

Admission is free. It boasts 850 species of tropical rainforest trees

and was officially launched by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar said Malaysia was one of the 12 most mega diverse countries due to its rich biodiversity, with almost 70 per cent of the world's known species found here.

He said Malaysia has more than 20,000 species of vascular plants, with 8,300 species in Peninsular



The exhibition showcases fireflies attractions available in the country.



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar at the launch of the exhibition.

Malaysia and 12,000 species in Sabah and Sarawak.

The certificate of recognition from MBOR was presented to Xavier during the launch on Aug 23.

At the launch, Dr Mahathir announced the Merbau (Malacca teak) as Malaysia's national tree.

The Merbau was chosen as a symbol of the integrity of the national forest, as a result of sustainable management and conservation efforts. It is a symbol of the importance of the forest to the country's industries and the economy.

The exhibition is one of the initiatives under the "Our Forest Conservation Programme 2019-2020". It aims to showcase the richness of the country's forests, as well as efforts implemented in preserving and conserving them.

It also aims to boost public awareness about the importance of preserv-



Some of the products derived from forests on display.

ing our forests to ensure the survival and wellbeing of the people, and to enhance the nation's reputation for sustainable forest management.

Various activities have been lined up in conjunction with the exhibition, including a tree-planting programme, photography and colouring contests.