

# Forest Dept allows activities but with strict conditions

## NATION

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KUALA LUMPUR: Camping and hiking involving overnight stays are allowed but only limited to half the total capacity.

Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department's Forest Eco-Parks and State Forest Parks director Mohd Yussainy Md Yusop said this was among the latest measures implemented to improve the standard operating procedure (SOP) for visitors when entering forest eco-parks and forest parks during the recovery movement control order (MCO).

"For instance, the capacity of the campsite in Sungai Pauh, Cameron Highlands, is set at 70 people compared with its maximum capacity of 150 people.

"The number of people allowed for picnic and camping activities at the Commonwealth Forest Park, Rawang, is set at 100 at any one time compared with its maximum capacity of 250 people.

"At the same time, the state forestry departments can set additional conditions to ensure full compliance with the SOP approved by the National Security Council, including the use of face masks during static recreation activities in the forest," he said.

Visitors, he said, were required to apply via an online application system to carry out activities in the forest eco-parks and state parks or obtain an entry permit directly from the state forestry departments.

Mohd Yussainy said for dynamic recreational activities, including jungle trekking and mountain climbing, these should be carried out by practising physical distancing of 3m between each climber and maintaining the ratio of five climbers to each mountain guide.

Extreme sports activities, such as motocross, ATV, mountain biking, rock climbing, paragliding as well as abseiling and wall climbing which were previously banned were now allowed, he added.

Also allowed are gatherings of not more than 20 people, boathouse rental services with a capacity not exceeding 50% and the organisation of department courses or technical training. — Bernama