

Eco-concept gallery planned for Kledang Saiong park

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THE Perak Forestry Department has plans to set up an eco-concept gallery at Kledang Saiong Eco Park in Ipoh.

Department director Datuk Mohamed Zin Yusop said the gallery would have an electronic ticketing counter and serve as an interactive information centre for tourists.

"The gallery will create new experiences in the era of digitalisation, in line with efforts to increase the state government's revenue.

"The Forestry Department hopes that the plan to set up the gallery will be realised in the near future," he said in his speech before Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad launched an early warning system for water

surges and a programme to plant trees at the park.

Mohamed Zin said the department required additional funds to carry out the plan.

Earlier, he said automatic early warning systems were installed at Kledang Saiong as well as the Lata Iskandar eco-parks in Perak for RM800,000.

He said the system aimed to increase the safety of visitors at water-based areas.

"The automatic system is able to identify a water surge as early as five minutes ahead via its sensor that is able to capture changes in river water levels.

"This is in line with the Perak State Structure Plan 2040 that emphasises a comprehensive disaster risk management plan to ensure safety," he added.

Mohamed Zin said there were 13 eco-parks in Perak and the seven

most popular ones had early warning systems.

"I hope the other eco-parks with a manual system will upgrade to an automatic one in due time."

On the topic of climate change, he said the department was constantly carrying out forest conservation work to combat it.

He added that after the launch of the National Greening Programme in 2021, Perak aimed to plant 4.5 million trees on 11,720ha of forest land in two years and had reached its target.

In addition, the department supported state efforts in managing, conserving and monitoring biodiversity under the Central Forest Spine programme.

"With cooperation from international parties and non-governmental organisations, several operations were held to monitor hotspot areas often used



Saarani planting a tree at the Kledang Saiong Eco Park.

by intruders for poaching at the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex," said Mohamed Zin.

"Besides that, the involvement of

local Orang Asli in forest patrols has also been a very effective measure to prevent poaching," he added.