



# ZOO RAMA

## Malaysia



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Zoo Negara Malaysia is "one of the good zoos anywhere"

## WWF CHIEF LAUDS MZS EFFORT!

### CLARIFIES PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION ON ZOOS

by K.C. Arun

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Zoo Negara Malaysia has just received the endorsement of the International President of the World Wildlife Fund, Sir Peter Scott, as "one of the good zoos anywhere in the world".

During their recent visit to Malaysia, Sir Peter and Lady Scott spent several hours at *Zoo Negara* and *Akuarium Negara* as guests of the Malaysian Zoological Society and inspected the wide range of exhibits closely prior to pronouncing this opinion.

Sir Peter told me: "We are deeply impressed about what we have seen here . . . your zoo and aquarium contains exhibits which are healthy and trim, and the low mortality, especially in the aquarium, is indeed most heart-warming."

Sir Peter also commended Zoo Negara's record in breeding animals in captivity, especially rare species like the Gir lion which has bred outside its own home ground only at our national zoo.

He also said that Zoo Negara's record in breeding the binturong, orang utan and pumas appeared to be outstanding. The zoo-born animals, including the Gir cubs, could match those born in the wild in any respect.

Sir Peter defended the establishment and expansion of zoos round the world, notwithstanding the opportunities available still to

see the animals, birds, fishes and reptiles in their own natural habitat.

He asked: "How many of those who, for example, come to *Zoo Negara* and *Akuarium Negara* would ever be able to make use of such opportunities?"

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*Photo shows Sir Peter (far left, standing) receiving a gift from the MZS President, Encik Mohd Khir Johari (middle), while the Chairman of the MZS Council, Tan Sri Dato V.M. Hutson (standing, with pipe in hand) and Lady Scott (seated) look on.*



# Farou, a firm reminder of time!

**KUALA LUMPUR** — The Malaysian Zoological Society recently celebrated the adoption of its second rhino, Farou, by a local manufacturer of agricultural hand tools bearing the Badak brand.

The occasion was a gala fete, culminating in the company's Chairman, Datuk Mohamed Sopiee, presenting to the MZS President, Encik Mohd Khir Johari, a cheque for \$2,400 and a collection of Badak tools.

Following are extracts from Encik Khir's speech at the adoption ceremony:

Rhinos are our second heaviest exhibits after the elephant, and, even in Africa where, relatively speaking, they still abound, they are getting rarer and more difficult to find all the time. With African countries like Kenya banning export of animals altogether, the chances of even zoos obtaining such fine exhibits in the future appear to be very slim.

So, Zoo Negara Malaysia will value and cherish these 'heavy-weights', and hopefully, they would emulate our Gir lions and make company with three or more. We

will leave it to their foster-parents, Guthries and Besikayu, regarding the adoption of the offspring should there be any result . . . but, naturally, they would have the first choice! I can assure you that we will exempt the family planning ruling in this case.

Talking of rhino, it is still our long cherished hope that, within our grounds, we will also be able to exhibit a Malaysian rhino, namely, the Sumatran rhino, some 10 to 15 of which are known to be in the Endau-Rompin forest reserve area.

Meanwhile, Farouk and Farou will help to remind us of our own heavy social responsibilities in the realm of conservation of nature . . . any indiscriminate felling of forest may help to make a few more millionaires among individuals or institutions, and make some budgets look provisionally more healthy . . . but, can such wealth ever buy or replace the lost treasures of nature? This is the question which conservationists everywhere are asking . . . and this is the question to which no entrepreneur — private or public — has the answer.

