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## Zoo Negara set to house pandas

ZOO Negara is all set to house giant pandas Fu Wa and Feng Yi which will be arriving in Malaysia by mid-April.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said the exhibit of 1.6ha is designed with temperature below 24°C that will simulate the pandas' original habitat.

He said the exhibit, covering three main areas, will include

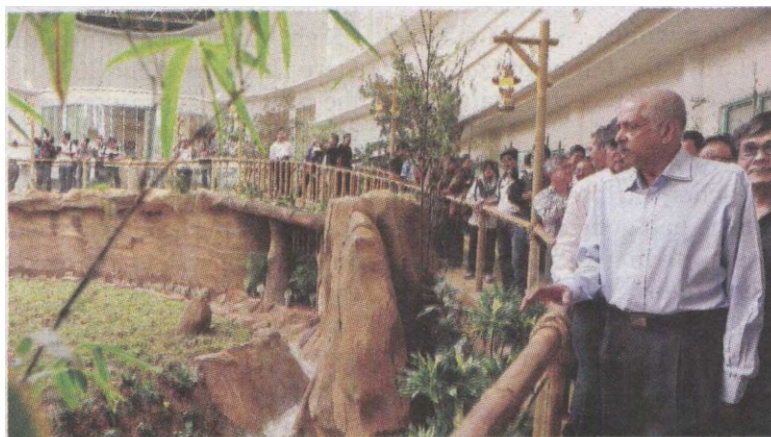
an exercise space, holding den, food preparation place, laboratory, veterinary clinic, incubator room, nursery and a monitoring room.

Palanivel said the giant pandas eat 20 to 25kg of bamboo daily and for additional food, they eat bamboo cakes which are made of flour, bamboo sprouts, apples and carrots.

"To accommodate the pandas' needs, the Forest Research

Institute Malaysia (FRIM) has identified a few local species of bamboo such as buluh pagar, buluh siam, buluh betung, buluh botong and buluh galah that can be a source of food for them," he said.

The pandas have been loaned to Malaysia for 10 years via the International Giant Panda Conservation Agreement signed by Malaysia and China in 2012 .



**GUEST HOME:** Palanivel (right) checks on preparations to house the two pandas due to arrive at Zoo Negara in April