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# Malaysia gets to keep cub if giant pandas mate

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will get to keep the baby of the two giant pandas, Fu Wa and Feng Yi, if they successfully mate in Zoo Negara.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr James Dawos Mamit said the two giant pandas, which will be on loan to Malaysia from China, will arrive at KL International Airport at 6.30am on April 15.

"If the two giant pandas produce a baby here, we will get to keep the baby. When the baby reaches three years of age, Fu Wa and Feng Yi will be sent back to China," he said when wrapping up points for the ministry during the debate for the Supplementary Supply (2013) Bill 2014.

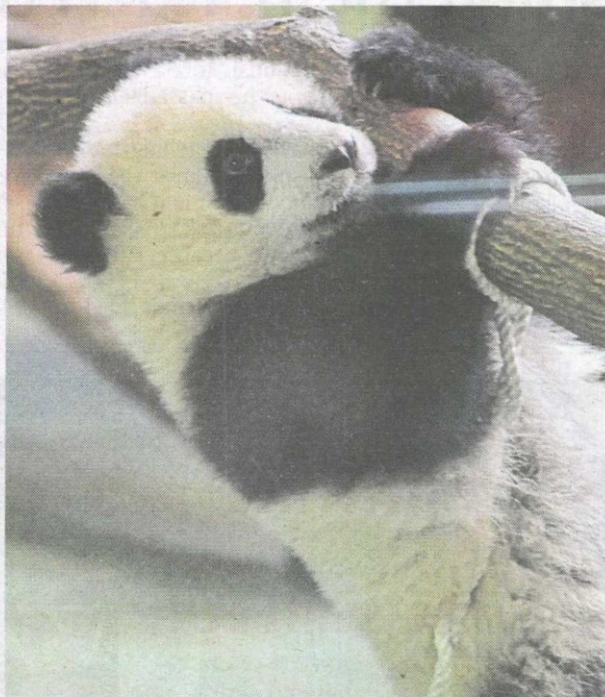
James said this in reply to a question by G. Manivannan (PKR - Kapar) who asked if it was true that if the two giant pandas produced a baby, the cub must be returned to China when it is three years old.

James said if a baby was produced, the cub would belong to Malaysia while its parents would be sent back to China when it reached three years of age.

"We will care for this baby panda and it will be part of the zoo for visitors to see and appreciate," he said.

On the bamboo leaves to be fed to the pandas, James said the plant species was found in Malaysia and had been identified by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, which would ensure a steady supply.

Upon arrival, the pair will be housed in the 1.6ha Giant Panda Conservation and Exhibition



**Honorary citizen:** A file photo showing Yuan Zai playing in its enclosure at the Taipei City Zoo. She is the first panda cub born in Taiwan to parents Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan which are on loan from China. Taiwan does not need to return the cub. — AFP

Centre at Zoo Negara.

The total cost of the exhibition centre is RM25mil, with RM15mil funded by the 1Malaysia Development Bhd and the rest borne by the Government.

On June 15, 2012, the Malaysian and Chinese governments clinched a deal for Feng Yi and Fu Wa to be loaned to Malaysia for 10 years to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries this year.