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World-class Zoo Negara by 2017, says Wan Junaidi

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KUALA LUMPUR — Zoo Negara will be of “world-class standard” after upgrading works, which began in 2013, are completed at the end of next year.

Natural Resource and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the works, costing RM70 million, was being carried out in stages.

“There is still a lot more to do. Hopefully, we will reach the world-class standard that we are working for,” he said after visiting the zoo in Hulu Kelang here.

The upgrading works include improving the enclosure for reptiles and selected animals, and treating the green-algae filled water in the zoo’s Tunku Abdul Rahman lake.

Wan Junaidi said he would suggest to the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) to use a filtration technology for the lake that would not harm the ecosystem.

“Every germ or bacteria plays an important role in the food chain and I would like to maintain that for the Tunku

Abdul Rahman lake,” he said.

Responding to complaints about the poor upkeep of the zoo, Wan Junaidi said the plants were allowed to grow wild to make the animals feel more at home.

“I would also suggest to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia to plant more flowers along the pathway to make the zoo look bright and cheerful,” he said.

He said the zoo would remain open throughout the upgrading process but exhibits and enclosures would be closed in stages to facilitate work.

“I hope we approach 2017 with a ‘bang’ and Zoo Negara will continue to flourish to be a world-class zoo. This will also bring in more visitors,” he said.

Malay Mail had reported on Sunday that visitors were unhappy with the condition of the zoo. They felt they were not getting their money’s worth because the zoo appeared to be in bad shape with overgrown vegetation, fewer animals, and animals in enclosures with the wrong description.