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Tangau denies proposing FRIM branch in Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR: Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau has denied he had proposed that a branch of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) be set up in Sabah.

Tangau, in an off-the-cuff speech at a function in Kota Kinabalu last week, only suggested that FRIM set up a division that specialised in looking after the Acacia Mangium within the ambit of the institute, his press secretary Chris Maskilone said

in a statement yesterday.

Maskilone said the suggestion was made due to the huge acreage of Acacia Mangium plantations in Sabah and Sarawak, with Sabah having 63,980 hectares or about 26.8 per cent of the plantation forests in the state and Sarawak, about 236,936 hectares.

“With such a huge acreage, Madius believed it was only apt that a dedicated division be set up within FRIM to provide assistance should anything happen to endanger the entire acacia plantation,” he said.