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Malaysia seeks heritage status for three sites

LENGGONG — The Tourism and Culture Ministry has initiated a move to secure Unesco World Heritage Site status for three more places in Malaysia.

Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said they were the Royal Belum State Park in Gerik, Perak, the Quartz Ridge of Gombak, Selangor, and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

The ministry had sent a tentative list of documents to Unesco prior to furnishing a complete dossier on the three sites, he said at the launch of the Lenggong Carnival 2017 at Dataran Lenggong here on Saturday.

The text of his speech was read by ministry secretary-general Datuk Ab Ghaffar A Tambi. The celebration was in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the recognition of the Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley as a World Heritage Site.

Besides the Lenggong Valley, Unesco has listed as World Heritage Sites the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak, the Kinabalu Park in Sabah as well as the historic cities of Melaka and George Town.

“The Department of National Heritage is preparing the dossier for the nomination of the new sites with the collaboration of various quarters to fulfill the criteria and requirements of Unesco,” Mohamed Nazri said in his speech.

Mohamed Nazri said the ministry always strove to seek recognition for various categories of heritage, including documentaries and manuscripts.

The “Kitab Tib Ilmu Bedil” or Book of Traditional Malay Weaponry secured recognition in 2016 from the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific based in South Korea, he said.

He said, the Department of National Heritage had also sent three nominations in March on cultural heritage for recognition by the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The nominations are the Wangkang Festival, Dondang Sayang and Pantun. The decision on the nominations will be known in November next year.

— Bernama