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Malaysia seeks world heritage status for 3 more sites

THE Ministry of Tourism and Culture has initiated its move to secure Unesco World Heritage Site status for three more places in Malaysia.

Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz named these places as the Royal Belum State Park in Gerik, Perak, the Quartz Ridge of Gombak, Selangor, and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, a green lung.

The ministry had sent a tentative list of documents to Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) prior to furnishing a complete dossier on the three sites, he said in his speech at the launch of the Lenggong Carnival 2017 at Dataran Lenggong on Saturday night.

The celebration was held in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the recognition of the Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley as a World Heritage Site.

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

Mohamed Nazri said the ministry always strives 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 also said the Department

of National Heritage 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, Dongang Sayang and Pantun.

The decision on the nominations will be known in November next year. — *Bernama*