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World heritage status sought for three more sites

LENGGONG, Perak: The tourism and culture ministry has initiated the move to secure United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) World Heritage Site status for three more places in Malaysia.

Its 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 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 here on Saturday night. The text of his speech was read out by ministry secretary-general Datuk Ab Ghaffar A Tambi. 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.

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 fulfil the criteria and requirements of Unesco,” Mohamed Nazri said in his speech.

Besides, he said, the Department of National Heritage sent three nominations — Wangkang festival, dondang sayang and pantun — in March on cultural heritage for recognition by the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. — *Bernama*