



The rafflesia variant found in Lojing Highlands is known as 'rafflesia kerri'. PIC COURTESY OF UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA KELANTAN

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WORLD RECORD

LOJING HIGHLANDS' RAFFLESIAS 2ND LARGEST

Variant found in Lojing Highlands measure between 80 and 90cm in diameter

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THE rafflesias found in Lojing Highlands have been identified as the second largest in the world after the ones in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah said he was informed of the matter by the Forestry Department

and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) recently.

Amar, who is also Lojing Highlands sustainable development steering committee chairman, said the Lojing Highlands' variant, which was known as *rafflesia kerri*, measured between 80cm and 90cm in diameter.

It is found to grow along Sungai Dekong near Kampiung Jedip in Gua Musang.

Amar said the state government gazetted 500 hectares of land for a rafflesia conservation park in 2011.

"Kelantan is an Islamic state which cares about the environment.

"We also hope for the rafflesia conservation efforts in Lojing Highlands will contribute to the state's tourism industry."

Amar said the state government would continue to support

efforts by the Forestry Department and UMK to preserve the giant flowers.

UMK earth science faculty's senior lecturer Dr Zulhazman Hamzah said the university had been researching on the rafflesias in Lojing Highlands for 11 years.

He said many articles on growth and mortality rates of rafflesias, pollination, seed dispersal and flower scent were published in scientific journals, conference papers and other mass media.

"In Southeast Asia, the rafflesia is fast becoming an international icon for tourism and a prominent symbol for nature conservation.

"The Lojing Highlands holds vast tourism potential as it is also home to the largest population of rafflesias after those found in Indonesia."