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Malaysia Wetland Sanctuary to be tourist attraction

THE Malaysia Wetland Sanctuary in Kuala Langat, a former mining area, will be developed into a green lung with a pond or lake and infrastructure to make it a tourist centre, said Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

He said the State Government also planned to develop the site into a centre for higher education, a "water centre, boardwalk" and a bird sanctuary.

Replying to a question by State Assemblyman Ei Kim Hock (BN-Teluk Datuk) at the State Assembly sitting, Abu Hassan said the the undisturbed mangrove swamp would be protected and measures would be taken to conserve the environment.

Peat swamp forests are one of the most biologically diverse eco-systems in the world, with valuable economic and ecological functions including flood mitigation and recreational functions.

"The Malaysia Wetland Sanctuary is an ideal place for migratory and local birds to stop over," he said, adding that it will also be a habitat for wild animals which are facing extinction due to clearance of forests for development projects.

Abu Hassan urged State assemblymen to work towards making Selangor a developed State by 2005.

"I also hope executive councillors who have been entrusted with their respective portfolios will carry on the good job they have been doing so far," he said.

Answering an allegation brought against him by the DAP that he had used money from the State's coffers to go visit Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in London after he was appointed Menteri Besar in June this year, Abu Hassan said he did meet Dr Mahathir in London but he used his own money as his visit was to attend his son's convocation.

On the appointment of Raja Muda Tengku Idris Shah as the acting Raja Selangor, Abu Hassan said it had to be done overseas as the Sultan of Selangor had to extend his stay abroad following advice from his cardiologist.

"The Ruler had no intention of being away from the State for more than 30 days."

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