

Najib names the Chinese pandas
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has announced the local names of the two Giant Pandas which arrived in Malaysia last month.

Najib said today that the pandas will be called Xing Xing and Liang Liang. The original names were Fengyi and Fuwa.

The pandas are here for 10 years to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and China this year.

Xing Xing and Liang Liang are loaned through the Malaysia-China Giant Panda International Conservation Agreement programme.

They arrived in Malaysia on May 21 from their habitat in China, and have been in quarantine at the National Zoo for the past month.

Najib said the pandas should be given local names to lure more people to visit them at the zoo.

According to Bernama, the prime minister said the names were chosen from the results of the national-level competition to name the pandas organised by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry in 2012.

"We know that the giant pandas have Chinese names, but we also want them to have Malaysian names, especially when they have to be here for the next 10 years.

"I hope the pandas will not get confused as they now have two names – Chinese names and Malaysian names," Najib was quoted as saying by Bernama, at the opening of the Giant Panda Conservation Centre and the 50th anniversary of the National Zoo in Kuala Lumpur today. – June 25, 2014.

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