

King praises those who helped Zoo Negara

KUALA LUMPUR: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah commended companies and other organisations that helped Zoo Negara during this trying time.

The financial contributions helped Zoo Negara cover its daily expenses and needs, said His Majesty during a visit to the zoo yesterday.

His Majesty's arrival at 9.40am was welcomed by Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah, Department of Wildlife and National Parks director-general Datuk Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim and Zoo Negara president Datuk Sr Zaharin Md Arif.

The royal tour started with Sultan Abdullah watching an animal show at the amphitheatre, followed by a presentation ceremony of mock cheques from several local companies.

The companies are Foodpanda Sdn Bhd which is contributing RM200,000 for giant pandas; 99 Speed Mart Sdn Bhd (RM123,084)

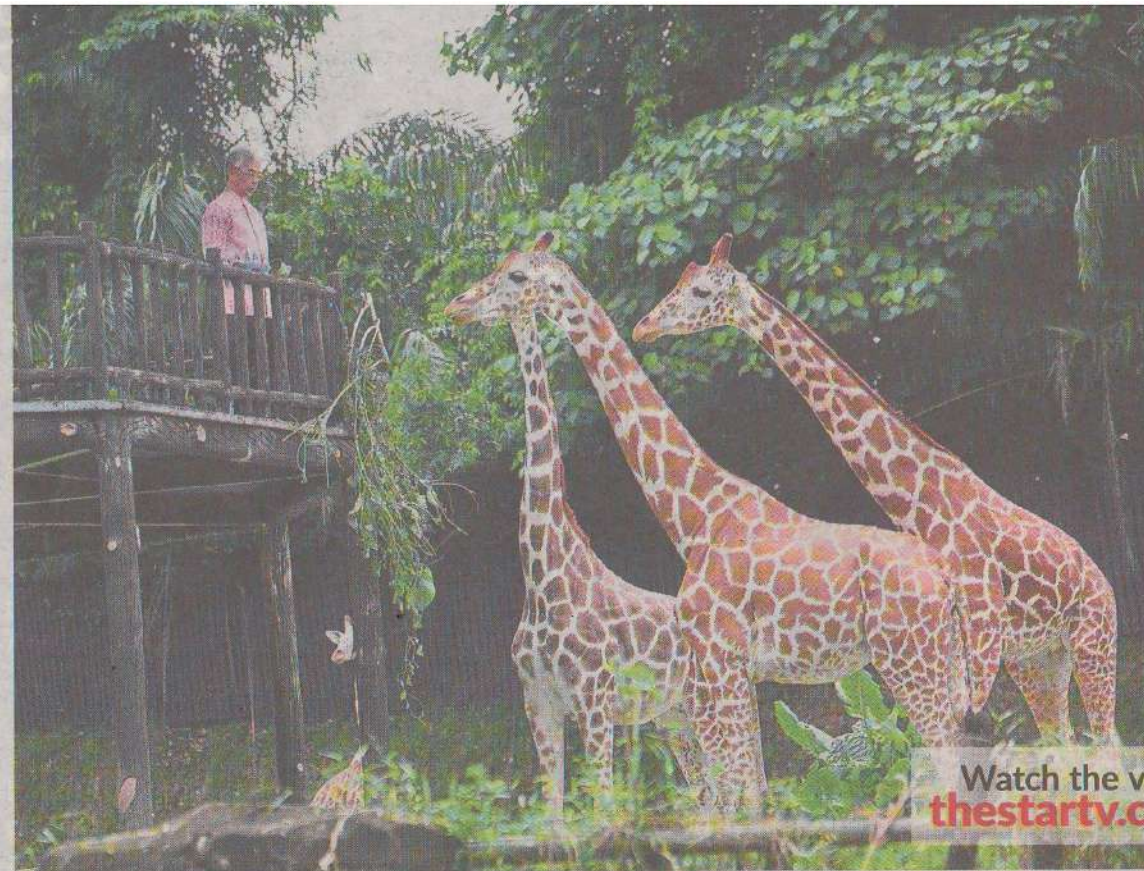
for two hippopotamuses; Sime Darby Oils Sdn Bhd (RM65,000) for two Sumatran Orang Utans and two Malayan tigers, and OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad (RM40,000) for a Malayan Tapir.

Sultan Abdullah also visited several animal enclosures.

Before concluding the visit, His Majesty visited the Giant Panda Conservation Centre and fed two giant pandas, Fu Wa and Feng Yi, which were loaned by the Chinese government in 2014 through the Joint Giant Panda International Conservation programme.

Zoo Negara deputy president Rosly Ahmat Lana said the contributions which covered the daily expenses, including food, medicine, maintenance of the animals and salaries of workers cost RM1.2mil monthly, were funded through various financial sources.

It was reported the movement control order which started on March 18 had affected Zoo Negara as lack of donations and ticket sales



Nice to meet you: Sultan Abdullah admiring the giraffes in their enclosure in Zoo Negara. — Bernama

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forced it to utilise its emergency fund to cover operating costs.

Rosly, however, said all animals in the zoo were healthy and in

good shape.

"It is a big challenge for us to cover the zoo's operating costs during this temporary closure as

Zoo Negara relies on ticket sales, space rentals, corporate sponsorships and public donations," Rosly had said then.