

Headline	Spotlight on Royal Belum's rafflesia		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	13 May 2019	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Metro	Page No	7
ArticleSize	454 cm ²	Journalist	Manjit Kaur
PR Value	RM 68,544		



Spotlight on Royal Belum's rafflesia

MB launches book featuring flora and fauna of state park

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A COFFEE-table book is shining a spotlight on three species of the rafflesia flower found at the Royal Belum state park.

The book titled *Rafflesia – Conservation Efforts and Management at Royal Belum State Park*, was launched by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu at a hotel here.

Ahmad Faizal said the effort taken by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) through its subsidiary company – TNB Research Sdn Bhd with the collaboration of the Perak State Park Corporation – was laudable.

"Rafflesia is the biggest flower in the world and three species can be found in Royal Belum.

"I hope the book will raise awareness of the need to appreciate the environment and draw more tourists to Perak and Royal Belum," he said in his speech after launching the book.

Ahmad Faizal urged other government-linked companies and non-governmental organisations (NGO) to carry out similar research which would benefit



Ahmad Faizal (centre) launching the coffee-table book. With him are (from left) Perak State Park Corporation manager Shahredza Hussein, Mohd Fadzil, TNB operation asset generation head Mohd Zahir Ismail and TNB Perak client management retail head Raja Abdul Jalil Zaid.

the community. "We need to highlight the beauty of such natural wonders."

Ahmad Faizal said TNB was also active in carrying out welfare programmes, especially at the orang asli settlement of Sungai Tiang which is close to Royal Belum.

He said instead of finding fault, NGOs should collaborate to improve the livelihood of the orang asli.

TNB Research Sdn Bhd chief strategy

officer Dr Mohd Fadzil Mohd Siam said it took them more than two years to complete the book.

He said although the focus was on rafflesia, the book also featured other flora and fauna found in the state park.

"Our work is not done with the launch of the book, we will continue to collaborate with the state park on other aspects," said Mohd Fadzil.

The research which began in June 2016,

cost RM3.3mil, and is aimed at preserving and sustaining the natural resources in Royal Belum, especially the rafflesia.

Among the other efforts carried out by TNB include constructing an observatory tower at Sungai Papan, building a rafflesia boardwalk, setting up a rafflesia information board, installing a replica of the flower and constructing a fish sanctuary together with the orang asli of Sungai Tiang.