

Nation

Tuesday February 21, 2006

Johor bars foreigners from hunt for Bigfoot

**JOHOR BARU:** Foreigners who enter Johor's jungles to hunt for Bigfoot are trespassing on state land, State Tourism and Environment Committee chairman Freddie Long said.

The state government's stand was that no foreign media, researchers, explorers or scientists could conduct such expeditions until the authorities established the facts about the Bigfoot's existence.

"We have not invited any foreigners for any sort of expedition and they are not permitted to go (into the forests)," said Long.

"If they do, that means they are trespassing."

Long was commenting on recent news reports that foreign media had been included in an expedition to track down Bigfoot.

He said many local scientists had shown interest in Bigfoot and if it existed, it would be part of Johor's and Malaysia's heritage.

Long said the state had formed a committee comprising local scientists to verify the existence of the creature.

On the Johor Wildlife Protection Society's statement that up to 40 Bigfoots were living in the jungles here, including one supposedly 60 years old which is nearing death, Long said:

"We have to verify the findings scientifically with the help of specialists in this field. We will discuss all these in our meeting tomorrow (today)."



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