

300 MILLION YEARS OLD

PERAK GOVT TO GAZETTE FOSSIL SITE

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Specimens in 6.9ha area near Kampung Changkat Tualang predate dinosaurs, says expert

KAMPAR

THE Perak government will gazette a 6.9ha site near Kampung Changkat Tualang near here, where the ancient fossils were discovered, as another geosite in the state.

State Communications, Multimedia and NGO Committee chairman Mohd Azlan Helmi Helmi said the area was unique for its scientific, recreational, aesthetic and historical values.

According to studies, said Azlan, the area could be the first



Mohd Azlan Helmi Helmi

geosite in the state to have coral fossils.

"We must implement control measures as the record of the Earth's evolution needs preservation to generate new knowledge for future generations. Hence, it requires gazetting.



Perak Geotourism Association vice-chairman Mohd Fadly Md Noor showing the fossils discovered by researchers in Kampung Changkat Tualang near Kampar, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"An integrated effort must be mobilised, involving the Perak Department of Minerals and Geoscience, Kampar District and Land Office, and the Kampung Changkat Tualang community to realise this aspiration," he said after visiting the site here yesterday.

Azlan, who is also Tualang Sekah assemblyman, said the site could be used for educational and research purposes, and had great potential as a new tourist destination in Perak.

He said the discovery by researchers from the Perak Geotourism Association (Geonat) confirmed that the area was once an open sea with an abundance of snail life attached to limestone rocks.

— Researchers unearthed various

types of ancient fossils, estimated to be about 300 million years old, in the 6.9ha area near Kampung Changkat Tualang.

Geonat vice-chairman Mohd Fadly Md Noor said the fossils of the long-extinct sea snail species were found by researchers while conducting a study in the area.

"We found more than three or four types of gastropod, rugosa, and crinoid fossils. The fossils, mostly gastropods, were found attached to the rocks in 50 spots.

"This discovery is the first so far in Perak, especially in the Kinta district. And these fossils are ancient-marine creatures from the Paleozoic era before the time of the dinosaurs," he told a press conference here on Friday.

He said all the specimens had not been removed from the lo-

cation and that the Perak Department of Minerals and Geoscience had been notified.

"All fossils are still in this area because this land belongs to the state government and so far, we have not taken any samples.

"The sampling will be done once a notice is issued by the department. Every report will be sent to the department, including those related to the Kinta Valley geosite."

Fadly said, he would propose to the state government that the 6.9ha area be designated as a geological heritage site to conserve it.

"We believe that there are more fossils in this area because it is quite large. We will continue the search for specimens or other types of fossils." **Bernama**