



SPEECH TEXT
THE HONORABLE DR. XAVIER JAYAKUMAR
MINISTER OF WATER, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2ND GIANT PANDA CUB NAMING CEREMONY

ZOO NEGARA

1 AUGUST 2019 (THURSDAY)

HIS EXCELLENCY BAI TIAN,

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia;

YANG BERHORMAT TENGKU ZULPURI SHAH BIN RAJA PUJI,

Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources;

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATUK ZURINAH PAWANTEH

Secretary General,

Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources;

MR. ROSLY @ RAHMAT AHMAT LANA

Deputy President of Zoo Negara

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' SR. ZAHARIN MD ARIF

Presiden Malaysian Zoological Society

Senior Officers of Government Agencies

Ladies and Gentleman,

A very good and wonderful morning to everyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone here. I would also like to extend my gracious thank to His Excellency Bai Tian

for being with us this morning to witness this memorable event. It is indeed an honour and privilege for Malaysia to collaborate with the Government of the People's Republic of China under the Giant Panda International Conservation Project.

2. The project was conceptualised to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China. Starting with the giant panda pair, Xing Xing and Liang Liang, today the cooperation has delivered two (2) cubs since its establishment in May 2014.

3. It is a record breaking birth within a short period in captivity, two (2) healthy female cubs in four (4) years. Even more momentous as Liang Liang conceived outside of normal mating season. It is indeed a tantamount to our pledge to ensure a safe and comfortable home for both pandas.

4. The first female cub, Nuan Nuan was born on the 23rd August 2016 here at the Giant Panda Conservation Centre, Zoo Negara and has been sent to China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda on the 14th November 2017. This is to accommodate the cub's physiological needs and to ensure its ability to adapt in its natural habitat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The second female cub was born on the 14th January 2018. The cub was received by our own local team of veterinarians at Zoo Negara and the team later nursed and closely monitored the growth of the cub. Over the past 18 months, the cub's growth development has been good. Now,

the cub from merely 750 grams at birth has grown into a healthy cub weighing almost 50 kilograms.

6. She is active, bonds well with her mother and in good health condition. Though the cub still feeds on milk, it has also been exposed to other diets such as bamboo leaves and carrots. This clearly displays the normal physiological progress and maturity achieved by the cub.

7. Today, marks a historic moment as we will be naming the second female cub. The Government of Malaysia has carefully selected and consulted the China Wildlife Conservation Association before finalising on a deemed suitable name. It gives me pleasure to announce the name of the second female cub as Yi Yi (谊谊) which means friendship.

8. Yi Yi is selected to recognise the friendship among the two nations that has grown beyond four (4) decades. It is my fervent hope that akin to the meaning of the name, the friendship between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China will be further enhanced not limited to giant panda conservation efforts but also diplomatically and economically.

9. Last but not least, I encourage all of you here to take the time to visit the lovely giant pandas, to learn about its nature and behaviours.

Thank you.