

## **The Star (Malaysia)**

22 June 2011

### **Saleng crocs settling down well at wetlands**

SEPANG: Five crocodiles have been relocated to the Paya Indah Wetlands, near here, from Johor's Saleng Zoo.

An assistant wildlife officer at Paya Indah said the crocodiles were adapting well to their new home and did not show signs of stress after they were moved there on Monday night.

A visit by The Star yesterday revealed the reptiles have joined 17 other crocodiles in a pond as big as two Olympic-sized swimming pools.

"It took about two hours to release the crocodiles into the pond, starting at 10pm on Monday.

"The new arrivals swam freely and did not show signs of aggression towards the original occupants of the pond which is a good sign," said the Perhilitan officer, who declined to be named.

He added that the crocodiles were released at night as the cooler temperature was less stressful to both the animals.

Apart from the spacious pond where the crocodiles have made their home, the Perhilitan-run wetlands appeared to be in dire need of green upkeep.

Once touted as a potential eco-tourism park covering about 3,100ha, the park holds only a handful species of animals, including three hippopotamus from Botswana and five Malayan porcupines.

Dried vegetation line the landscape, barely providing shelter for picnickers or joggers.

Entrance is free but visitors are required to sign a guestbook and a declaration of indemnity before entering.

First opened to the public in 1997, the park was rejuvenated with a RM10mil allocation which led to its reopening on Oct 20, 2008.

However, a quick browse through the guest book saw only two names slightly after noon yesterday, while about 50 names were signed last Sunday.