KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

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Sabah's longest jungle canopy walk in Sepilok completed

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THE canopy walkway at the Rainforest Discovery Centre in Sepilok here is now 620m long with the recent completion of its final extension phase.

Funded by the Sabah government under the 12th Malaysia Plan, the 250m extension was completed at a cost of RM4 million.

Sabah Forestry Department's chief conservator of forests Datuk Frederick Kugan said the construction of the walkway began during the 8th Malaysia Plan in 2003, involving the construction of two towers.

"Due to funding constraints, construction was done over five phases, with early funding coming largely from the federal government.

"In total, about RM13 million has been spent on its entire construction," he said.

The Rainforest Skywalk, as the canopy walkway is known, is one of Sandakan's iconic landmarks and the longest canopy walkway in Sabah.

"This entirely metal structure is one of the main attractions of the Rainforest Discovery Centre, an environmental education facility run by the Sabah Forestry Department.

"The Skywalk traverses the tall jungle trees 25m off the ground. Together with a well-maintained network of forest trails, they serve as the key amenities that draw birders from all over the world to Sepilok.

"It is also not unusual to see orangutans along the Skywalk, particularly during the fruiting season.

"Watching flying squirrels at dusk is another popular activity along the Skywalk," he said.

There are other canopy walkways in Sabah, which are located in Poring Hot Spring, which is 374m long, Danum Valley (300m) and Maliau Basin (294m). However, they are mainly suspension bridges connected to big trees.



The Rainforest Skywalk is one of Sandakan's iconic landmarks. PIC COURTESY OF SABAH FORESTRY DEPARTMENT