

Onus to keep clean on local councils

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By Geraldine Albela

IPOH, Sun. — The onus is on local authorities to take the initiative to contribute new ideas and put in extra efforts to make the five-year national "Clean and Beautiful" programme launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today a success.

This was stressed by Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai at the launching.

Datuk Lee said the local

authorities would have to secure the co-operation of the private sector, voluntary organisations, schools and the media to ensure the success of the programme.

He said the Federal Government has allocated \$31.8 million for the programme, which has been given the theme "A clean people for a healthy nation," for its various activities.

A further \$100,000 a year will be given to each local council by State governments to enable them to complete beautification and cleanliness projects.

Datuk Lee said the programme would benefit tourism as local authorities would be required to keep public toilets, places of public interest and picnic spots clean at all times.

This would contribute to the Government's efforts to make the tourism sector a major revenue earner.

Under the programme, 15 activities involving the cleanliness and beautification of towns have been identified for local councils to carry out over five years. These include ensuring the cleanliness of pub-

lic toilets, eateries, drains, beaches and tourist spots.

The councils also have to create public awareness of the programme and plan cleanliness and beautification projects for kampungs, new villages, housing estates, squatter areas, schools and towns.

They are required to do this by ensuring, among other things, prompt rubbish collection, better sewerage treatment plants and prompt removal of abandoned vehicles or boats.

Datuk Lee said the private sector would be en-

couraged to take part in projects involving the installation of illuminated street and directional signs, production of film strips highlighting the importance of cleanliness and construction of billboards, pedestrian bridges and bus stops.

In implementing the programme, the Government has adopted a strategy which includes calling for provision of enough facilities and manpower to keep the country clean and launching of an awareness and education campaign to cultivate a proper attitude.