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Mahathir-tree

MAHATHIR LAUNCHES NATION-WIDE TREE PLANTING PROJECT

PETALING JAYA, April 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today planted a Petaling tree (*Ochanostachys Amentacea Masters*) at Taman Rekreasi Kelana Jaya here to mark the launching a nation-wide tree planting project.

The event was witnessed by about 400 people.

Among those present were Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

They were also among those who planted about 120 trees from eight species, mostly of woodland timber quality.

The "Gift of Tree Project" is a joint venture administrated by the Malaysian Nature Society, International Real Estate Federation, Persatuan Penilai dan Perunding Harta Swasta Malaysia, Lions Club, One Earth Entreprise and the Forest Research Institute.

A spokesman for the organisers said the project, which has tree-replacement through replanting as its core, was aimed at making tree-planting a very accessible and meaningful exercise to be enjoyed by those who care about sustaining the natural environment.

He said the programme also introduced the novel idea of giving trees as gifts for all occasions.

Dr Mahathir also received donations of RM300,000 from corporate and individual donors for the gift of trees project.

Explaining the project, the chairman of the MNS tree planting group, Encik John Loh, said the project is unique because for the first time there is an official plan to map out every tree planted as part of the exercise.

"Every donor of RM100 can have a tree planted in his name or in the name of someone he or she would like to honour, even a Tree Certificate which is numbered and with a permanent record maintained by the MNS," he said.

Response to the project has been encouraging to date. Organisations which have each donated RM50,000 to the project for the planting of five "forest" (equivalent of 500 trees) include Arab-Malaysian Development Berhad, Bandar Utama Development Sdn Bhd, Land and General Berhad and Sunrise Bhd. -- Bernama

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