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Garden

TREES WILL BE PLANTED ALONG HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND RIVER BANKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Suitable trees will be planted along the highways, roads and river banks in efforts to make Malaysia a "Garden State" by 2005,

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today the tree species, location and maintenance of the trees would be decided by the National Landscape Department (NLD).

The project was expected to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad early next year, he told reporters after presenting prizes to winners of the clean and beautiful programme and landscaping contests held in conjunction with this year's National Day celebrations, here.

He hoped that the private sector and members of the public would help the government make a success of the project, the cost of which had yet to be determined.

Dr Ting said RM200 million had been allocated to the NLD for landscaping works under the Seventh Malaysia Plan but high costs were involved and he hoped that the private sector would pitch in.

He also said that the clean and beautiful campaign had received encouraging response since its launch in 1990 but more efforts were needed to achieve the "Garden State" objective.

He said the private sector, especially shop and factory owners, could help by beautifying the landscape in their respective areas and footing the electricity bills to light up the villages at night.

-- BERNAMA

RHM JK