

09 MAR 1997

ALLOCATE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN TREES, SAYS LEE LAM THYE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Local authorities must be provided with adequate funds for tree maintenance in line with the government's aspirations for a greener Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall Environmental Committee chairman Datuk Lee Lam Thye said today choosing the right species of trees to be planted was also important so as not to cause damage to the surroundings.

"While we need to plant more trees to green the nation, we must also give serious attention to maintenance of these trees," he said in a statement, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the national tree-planting campaign last week.

Lee also suggested that all state and local authorities make it compulsory for all those involved in development projects to seek permission before they were allowed to fell trees in the name of development.

He said that in addition to housing estates, tourist spots, highway and road development, steps must be taken to ensure landscaping for industrial parks and commercial development. -- BERNAMA

MAM JK