

26 MAR 1997

Ting-Felling

AREAS INVOLVED IN RECKLESS TREE FELLING IDENTIFIED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- At least four areas in Selangor may be involved in extensive land clearing including one where the hill is levelled and trees indiscriminately felled, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the Town and Country Planning Department which had begun investigations into the matter would submit a report to him before the issue is discussed at the Cabinet meeting.

Dr Ting however did not mention the location of the areas involved.

He also said the developers who were responsible for the act have yet to be identified as well as when the permit to clear the land was given.

Yesterday, Ting was reported to have said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed an investigation be conducted into the clearing of vast tracts of land in north Selangor.

Dr Mahathir had raised the issue during the Cabinet meeting last week after he came across the area during his return from Taman Negara.

He said today's Cabinet meeting did not fix any time frame for the investigation and report to be completed.

Ting said he had directed state governments and local authorities to conduct more inspections including spot checks to ensure no reckless felling of trees and hill levelling was carried out.

He said land clearing for development projects should be well planned.

-- BERNAMA

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