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## Bigger green zone for Kuala Lumpur

Suryani Dalip

MORE areas in Kuala Lumpur will be turned into gardens under a Kuala Lumpur City Hall plan to create a bigger green belt.

Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff said a total of 400ha in several areas including Pudu Ulu, International Garden in Bukit Jalil, Taman Metropolitan Kepong, Taman Metropolitan Jinjang Utara, Taman Manjalara and Tamam West Valley in Bukit Kiara had been identified for the project.

"Besides that, City Hall is also embarking on planting shady trees and landscaping mining areas and rivers in the municipality, like Sungai Kuyoh in Bukit Jalil, where the Commonwealth Games Village is sited," he said.

Speaking to reporters yesterday after officiating at a tree-planting ceremony by Ho Hup Construction Company Bhd at Bukit Jalil, Kamaruzzaman said the project would include routes which were being used for the Games next year and contracts had been awarded.

He said for Sukom itself, RM7 million had been allocated for landscaping projects. City Hall's budget for landscaping and tree-planting activities this year is RM3 million.

Kamaruzzaman added that roadsides would be planted with trees and gazetted as green areas.

He said City Hall was targeting to plant 220,000 trees within five years. So far, it has managed to plant about 11,330 trees with more than 50,000 shrubs all over the city.

"We started planting trees in the 1980s under the town beautification programme even before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the nationwide tree-planting campaign on March 3," he said.

"We will make sure that Kuala Lumpur becomes a 'City in the Garden' as wished by the Government."

Kamaruzzaman said although City Hall took positive steps in greening Kuala Lumpur, there were people who had still not changed their attitude and continued to damage the plants.

He said City Hall had issued 8,987 compound notices to the public so far on various offences, and collected about RM465,100 in fines.

Kamaruzzaman also called on the private sector, individuals and voluntary organisations to come forward and carry out tree-planting programmes.

During the ceremony Kamaruzzaman planted a Merawan Siput Jantan tree along a one kilometre long stretch of the Sungai Besi-Puchong bypass, accompanied by Ho Hup managing director Low Tuck Choy, who also planted the same tree.

It was among 300 such trees to be planted there. As of today, only 100 trees have been planted for this particular phase of the programme.

Ho Hup will develop the RM1.5 billion 153ha Bukit Jalil Town Centre mixed project.

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