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Charter to root out littering, boost cleanliness

KUANTAN, Mon. - The Housing and Local Government Ministry is formulating a charter called the "Local Authority Cleanliness Vision" to root out littering and improve cleanliness.

Deputy Minister Peter Chin Fah Kui said the charter included an action plan for the local authorities to enforce to keep six main areas clean and well maintained.

These areas are:

- * Public facilities including toilets, public transportation centres and markets;

- * Recreational places including public parks, beaches, childrens' playgrounds and tourist destinations;

- * Hawker centres including restaurants, food courts and stalls;

- * Buildings including government and commercial premises;

- * Infrastructure including roads with potholes, damaged drains, cement from construction lorries spilt on roads, uncut grass and garbage along the roads; and,

- * Construction sites including dirty lorries plying the roads and dirty kongsi.

The charter also includes short- term and long-term suggestions to solve problems listed in the action plan.

The action plan would enable local authorities to develop a proper and effective system to monitor cleanliness, Chin said.

He said the the plan was in line with making Malaysia a "Nation of Parks" by the year 2005.

It is also in line with the "Landscaping the Nation" concept, mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who launched the nationwide tree-planting campaign on March 3.

Chin said the main reason for the landscaping campaign was to enhance the beauty of environment by creating quality landscapes nationwide.

"And we are expecting that there will be three million trees planted by the year 2000.

"This will increase to about 20 million trees by the year 2020."

"With this in mind, local authorities are expected to plan and implement the greening of the nation campaign in a more structured manner."

He said the campaigns and the charter not only required support of local authorities, but also of the private sector, non-governmental organisations and the public.

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