

17 APR 1997

Ting-Landscape

COMPULSORY LANDSCAPING FOR SIX MONTHS BEFORE CF ISSUED

KAJANG, April 17 (Bernama) -- Every housing estate must implement a landscaping scheme for six months before the certificate of fitness can be issued, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

The ministry, through the National Landscaping Department, was drawing up the landscaping guidelines on the minimum landscape features required of each housing estate, he said.

The guidelines, to be ready end of the year, would, among others, stress tree planting methods and the types of trees suitable for housing estates of limited size to ensure a conducive living environment for the residents.

"The new guidelines are specially for the housing estates because earlier guidelines issued by the ministry were found to be too general," he said after launching a tree-planting campaign organised by the Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (HDAM).

Dr Ting said the campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 3 showed that the government was serious about planting three million trees by 2000.

The government wanted the housing estates to give more emphasis to landscaping to complement its efforts to make Malaysia a garden state by 2005, he added.

He said one tree was required to be planted for each terrace house and two for each semi-detached house while the local authorities would take over the maintenance of the trees.

The developers must take into account factors like the type of tree and the height to prevent problems like damage to buildings and road surfaces and obstruction to electrical lines and cables and underground pipes, he said.

He also sought the cooperation of the residents associations, rukun tetangga bases and non-governmental organisations nationwide to support the tree-planting campaign. -- BERNAMA

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