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Don't delay on tree planting programmes, States told

Hamidah Atan

MALACCA, Sun. - Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said State Governments which had yet to embark on tree planting programmes should start immediately, without giving any excuses.

Their failure would not help in the Federal Government's effort to green the nation and preserve the environment.

He said recently in Gopeng that some State Governments had not responded well to the tree planting campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March.

"The Government had agreed on March 3 as the date when they (State Governments and local councils) should start planting trees. This is because we want to plant about three million trees by the year 2000 and 20 million by the year 2020," he said.

"All State Governments have been allotted the number of trees to be planted. However, some of them are still not doing it.

"They must not give excuses but start working on it if they want to participate in effort to green the nation."

Ting said they must forward a report, at least twice a year, to the department on the progress of their programmes.

He told reporters this after launching the Malaysian Buddhist Association's 20th anniversary at the Pay Fong hall last night.

The department would organise a seminar relating to national landscaping on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur.

"We hope to discuss among other things, during the seminar, further efforts and matters pertaining to landscaping development and management."

Ting also said about 72 per cent of the country was covered by forest and trees, including mango trees.

The department provides guidelines on the planting and the State Governments and people must adopt them, he said.

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