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Ensuring success of greening efforts

THE Petaling Jaya Municipal Council requires contractors and developers of housing projects to submit their landscaping plans before the certificate of fitness is issued.

Its parks and recreation department head Ishahak Mohamad Saad said this had to be done to ensure that the council's ongoing greening campaign was a success.

The landscaping plans have to be submitted with the building plans.

Ishahak said this when commenting on the call by State Local Authorities, Urbanisation and Squatters Committee chairman Datuk Fuad Hassan to local authorities to step up their greening efforts.

Fuad had urged all local authorities in Selangor to green areas under their jurisdiction in line with the Urban Green concept promoted by the State Government.

He had stated that they needed to liaise with developers to ensure that proper landscaping was done in every housing estate and commercial centre.

The greening efforts ought to be taken seriously in view of the rapid development taking place and as the Selangor Government was in the midst of drawing up a by-law to give more powers to local authorities to penalise people who destroyed greenery.

Ishahak said the MPPJ had participated in the nationwide tree-planting campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Serti Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March.

He said a tree-planting campaign was launched by council president Datuk Mohamad Nor Bador in April where 50 trees were planted.

"On a monthly basis, an average of 600 trees are planted and the areas covered so far are PJ Selatan, Kelana Jaya, Damansara Jaya and Bandar Utama.

"By the end of the year, we hope to have planted about 7,000 trees in the Petaling Jaya district."

Ishahak said RM50,000 has been set aside for planting and maintaining the trees.

He warned that anyone caught vandalising or cutting trees could be fined up to RM2,000 under the Local Government Act - Park Bylaw 1982.

Ishahak said the MPPJ had donated 2,000 trees and 10,000 shrubs to schools, residents associations and places of worship together with fertilisers and earth to help them do their bit in the greening effort.

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