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Johor scraps building project to save playground

Chong Chee Seong

MUAR, Sun. - The State Government has opted to retain a playground in the heart of Tangkak town instead of giving it up for a proposed RM12 million project.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said this was in line with the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to make Malaysia a "Garden Nation".

"We are taking a second look at proposed development projects to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected," said Ghani at a Kongsi Raya celebration organised by the Ledang Barisan Nasional in Tangkak last night.

The proposed 95-unit three-storey shophot project was planned under Phase Two of the RM23.9 million urban redevelopment programme for Tangkak town.

The first phase, involving the construction of a district office, several houses and flats at a nearby site is nearing completion.

The project, which started in 1995, is being carried out by Naufal Bersatu Sdn Bhd.

Ghani said: "The State Government has decided that the second phase of the town's redevelopment project on the playground be scrapped to save the field.

"We need it to allow our youths to participate in sports and recreational activities, and to act as a green lung for urban dwellers," he added.

He said playgrounds in small towns and villages also played important roles in bringing the people together.

Ghani said he had also directed local authorities to intensify ongoing tree-planting and landscaping activities.

"We need development to spur the State's economic growth. But we cannot allow such development to ruin our rich, green environment, which must be preserved for future generations."

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