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Ting-Campaign

LACK OF RESPONSE TO PLANT-A-TREE CAMPAIGN

SHAH ALAM, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- The Housing and Local Government Ministry is not satisfied with the response by several states in the "plant-a-tree campaign" launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May.

Its minister, Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, said today even though the target was 750,000 trees should be planted nationwide in a year, as of October only 153,000 were planted.

He said according to the Landscape Department, only 20 per cent of the target was being met and if such a situation continues, the target of three million trees by the year 2000 would fail.

Ting said Perak's response to the campaign was encouraging where 93 per cent of the 90,000 trees targeted had been planted followed by Perlis (73 per cent out of 10,000 trees) and Negeri Sembilan (66 per cent of 30,000 trees) with other states implementing less than 30 per cent of their respective targets.

"The Landscape Department has studied this and came out with several reasons why the campaign is not running smoothly," he told reporters after opening the National Landscape Conference here.

Ting said among the reasons was the ministry not being informed of the trees planted.

"According to the Landscape Department, there are states with zero achievement. However this does not mean that there are no trees planted but it is not being recorded," he said.

Ting said Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin Kah Fui and the Landscape Department had been directed to coordinate tree planting activities to ensure state governments recorded tree planting activities once in every three months. -- BERNAMA

AZH ZUL RM