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## Landscaping mandatory for new projects in PJ

THE Petaling Jaya Municipal Council is making it compulsory for new industrial and residential development to landscape their area in line with the nationwide tree planting campaign.

Kampung Tunku State Assemblyman Khoo Ooi Seng said the requirement, which had already been included in the prerequisite for applying for Certificate of Fitness, will be given more attention this time.

He said this after the council's Urban Services Committee meeting on Monday. "The council will make it compulsory for all new development in the municipality to landscape their areas by planting trees," he said.

This requirement, he said, would not be made compulsory for existing industrial sites as the requirement had not been imposed on them earlier.

"However, we will ask them to co-operate with us to green the municipality," he said.

He said the council could not force industrialists to plant trees in their factory compounds but could only encourage them to do so.

In line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to green the nation, Khoo said MPPJ would carry out the tree planting campaign next month.

"We want to instill a love for trees in Petaling Jaya residents through this campaign," he said, adding that there have been cases where trees planted by the council were vandalised.

"We want to educate residents not to destroy trees planted by MPPJ but instead have a feeling of love for them."

Vandalism usually occurs to trees planted in front of houses or business premises belonging to the Chinese, some of whom believe it is bad feng shui.

Every house, shop and industrial area will be required to plant trees in the campaign.

"Every premises will be asked to plant at least one tree," Khoo said.

As an incentive for residents to plant trees at their houses, he said the council might subsidise the cost of the trees.

"The council will also identify trees that are safe to be planted in residential and business areas," he said.

The tree planting campaign was launched by Dr Mahathir on March 3. Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib also launched the campaign at state level at the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council the same day.

Three million trees will be planted under the nationwide campaign by the year 2000.

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