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Perak to achieve target of 90,000 trees

SUNGAI SIPUT, Sat. - The Perak Government is confident of achieving its target of planting 90,000 trees this year under the National Tree Planting Campaign.

"We have already planted 87,772 trees as of October and the balance of some 2,300 can be planted by the end of the year," State Urban Development and Local Government committee chairman Chang Ko Youn said at the launching of the Kuala Kangsar district tree planting campaign today.

Chang, who is also Jalong State Assemblyman, said Perak would continue to compile data on the number of trees planted by all 15 local councils.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh had said Perak was one of the three States which had shown good response to the campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March.

The other two states announced by Ting last month are Perlis and Negri Sembilan.

Ting had stated that Perak has planted 93 per cent of the 90,000 trees targeted for the first year in line with the Federal Government's efforts to green the nation and preserve the environment.

The Housing and Local Government Ministry and the local authorities have a long term target to plant 3 million trees by the year 2000 and 20 million trees by 2020.

Chang said he would emphasise on public co-operation and to encourage the residential associations, rukun tetangga sectors and others to get involved in the campaign.

He said they should imitate the fine example shown by the residents in Christchurch, New Zealand, where 82 per cent of its population of some 300,000 people were involved in gardening.

He added that the city with 660 gardens and 92 gardening clubs had won the Garden City of the World.

Chang said a RM1 million recreation park would be built on 1.2-hectare site here and construction work is expected to start next year.

Earlier, the Kuala Kangsar district council chairman Abdul Rahim Salleh said the council hoped to plant about 30,000 trees in the district by the year 2,000 to preserve the environment.

The council planted some 6,000 trees this year and plans to plant 6,900 more trees next year, 7,000 in 1999 and 6,500 in 2000, said Abdul Rahim, who is also Kuala Kangsar district officer.

Later Chang presented prizes to the four winners of the landscape competition in the district. They are Ladang Infoternak which won the award for the Government departments and agencies category, Rumah Rehat Majlis Kuala Kangsar (Chalet and Rest House section), Majlis Daerah Kuala Kangsar (rivers) and Hutan Lipur Ulu Kenas (forest reserve).

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