

21 MAR 1997

Ting-Wastes

REASONABLE RATES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL

KUALA TERENGGANU, March 21 (Bernama) -- The people have been assured that they will be charged a reasonable rate when solid waste disposal nationwide is privatised soon.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chiew Peh, who gave this assurance today, said the cabinet had decided on four companies to take over the service from the local authorities.

"A subsidiary of DRB-Hicom group, Alam Flora will handle the service in the central and east zones while other areas will be handled by Malaysia Mining Corporation (MMC), Konsec Gali Sdn Bhd and KKI Sdn Bhd," he told reporters after opening the general meeting of a Moral Uplifting Society here.

He said the Economic Planning Unit, Treasury, Local Government Department and the companies concerned were preparing the relevant bills before submission to the Cabinet and tabling in the Dewan Rakyat.

The government could only sign the agreement on privatisation after the bills were approved.

Dr Ting stressed that Alam Flora was now handling the service in the federal capital based on a temporary agreement with Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

He also said that the National Landscape Department would set up nurseries, each covering over 1,000 ha, in eight areas to supply adequate trees in line with the government's objective to plant at least three million trees nationwide by 2005.

The government had allocated RM200 million to the department under the Seventh Malaysia Plan and part of the allocation would be used for planting trees.

Since the campaign was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 3 the response from the public, private sector and non-government organisations (NGOs) had been encouraging, he added. --

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