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Ting-Trees

SOME 600 HARDCORE POOR TO PARTICIPATE IN TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN

PENKALAN HULU, July 12 (Bernama) -- The nationwide tree-planting campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in February will be extended to rural areas through the "Semai Indah" programme.

Under the programme, the National Landscaping Department would supply seedlings and saplings of decorative trees to some 600 hardcore poor families to plant and take care of the palms in nurseries set up in rural areas.

After the trees matured, the government would buy them at a price fixed by the department to be used for greening and landscaping purposes, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

The move was to supplement the income of hardcore poor families, he told reporters after launching the "Semai Indah" programme here today.

Hardcore poor families are those earning below RM240 a month.

Dr Ting said the government had allocated RM2 million for the tree-planting programme under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000).

The programme is expected to produce sufficient supply of decorative trees for the campaign after three years, he said. -- BERNAMA

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