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Trees

STATE GOVERNMENTS TOLD TO SUBMIT A LIST OF TREES

GOPENG, July 19 (Bernama) -- State governments and local authorities nationwide have been directed to submit a monthly inventory, relating to the various species of trees and the number growing in their respective area.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said the first report should be made this September, six months after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the campaign to grow more trees in March.

The inventory was important for the ministry to help assess the latest position with regard to the number of existing trees, and those grown over the last six months, he told reporters after launching the tree-growing campaign at Kampung Lawan Kuda here today.

"From the report, the ministry will know the extent of public response to the campaign," he said.

The relevant authorities failing to grow or maintain the trees would be contacted and asked for explanation, and if it was felt that advice should be given it would come from the National Landscape Department, he said.

The ministry had set its target to plant three million trees by 2000 and the number of trees to be grown in every state would be reflective of its population size.

Dr Ting also appealed to the people to give their cooperation in ensuring the success of the campaign, saying the efforts to green the nation depended on the people's ready acceptance.

On housing developers' clearing of trees at their project site, Dr Ting said any indiscriminate chopping would not be allowed and the local authority must act firmly on the matter.

Housing developers should also make a detailed planning of the trees they intend planting to avoid house buyers chopping them down later, if they would not augur well with their "fung sui" (customary belief), he added. -- BERNAMA

LAT AR RM