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Nation expected to have 3m trees by year 2000

THE country is expected to achieve the target of planting 3 million trees by the year 2000 if more than 15 per cent of Malaysians are serious in the effort to turn the country into a "garden nation".

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said every state in Malaysia has been allocated the number of trees to be planted.

"But, it is rather disappointing because we have not received encouraging responds from the public," he said at the tree planting ceremony in Cheras yesterday.

His speech was read out by Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Teng Gaik Kwan. Also present was Parliamentary Secretary for Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry Datuk Tan Chai Ho.

The campaign was organised in support of the "Love the Environment - Malaysia a Garden Country" which kicked off early last year.

It was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with the aim of turning the country into a "garden country" by 2005.

The ministry will be providing some 1,000 trees for the campaign with 500 to be planted at Bandar Tun Razak and Cheras.

Yesterday's event was organised in cooperation with Chinese daily Sin Chew Jit Poh, RediFM98.8, Malaysia Health Action Centre, MCA Bandar Tun Razak, MCA Cheras and MCA Negri Sembilan divisions, Green Country Farm, Rock Records and Tapes (M) Sdn Bhd and Leisure Mall.

The trees will be planted in parks, roadsides, and school compounds identified by resident associations and non-Governmental organisations.

Tan said the planters are also encouraged to put their names on the trees they plant so that they will be more responsible towards the trees.

Besides tree planting, other activities including children's colouring and drawing contests and games were held.

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