

03 MAR 1998

Ting-Trees

SOUND LOCAL AUTHORITIES URGED TO GROW MORE TREES

KUALA SELANGOR, March 3 (Bernama) -- Local authorities with financial strength have been urged to grow more trees with their own funds as part of the nationwide tree-planting campaign.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said that although the ministry had the allocation for tree-planting, it would be better under the present economic situation for local authorities to spend their own money for the purpose.

"If the situation permits, the local authorities should spend their own funds to plant more trees as part of their social obligations, and to exceed the targets," he told reporters after launching the tree-planting campaign at Taman Alam here today.

Also present were his deputy Peter Chin Fah Kui and Selangor Local Government, Municipal and Squatter Committee Chairman Datuk Fuad Hassan.

Ting later planted the Eugenia Orelana tree opposite the Taman Alam Interpretation Centre here. The special guests present also planted 32 trees of other species.

The tree planting campaign, which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched last March, has proved successful in that some 538,159 trees had been planted till last December.

Ting said these included the 100 per cent achievement by five state governments, and for this year he hoped for equal achievement by all state governments.

Ting said the ministry had also set up a steering committee for the Tree-Planting Campaign to plan, coordinate and monitor the tree planting campaign throughout the country.

Similar committees would also be set up at all local authorities not only to undertake similar task, but also to help those in the private sector, like the Non-Governmental Organisations to be active in the campaign.

This would help the ministry obtain feedback on the tree-planting programme, he added. -- BERNAMA

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