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Strict measures taken to reach target of three million trees by year 2000

ALOR STAR, Sun. - Measures will be taken to ensure the country achieves its target of planting three million trees by next year, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said.

He said although response to the national tree planting campaign was generally good, intensified efforts must be taken by both public and private sectors to realise it.

"In two months' time we will move into year 2000 ... some States have not planted enough trees or reached their targets," he said. Ting said the National Landscape Department will analyse the States' performances at the end of the year.

"We will identify factors which were slowing down the campaign and take remedial steps to solve the problems," he said after visiting the Seberang Nyonya voluntary fire unit base yesterday.

The department, Ting said, had been holding discussions with States which responded poorly to the campaign to intensify their efforts.

Nearly 1.9 million trees had been planted since the campaign was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March 1997 until June this year.

The campaign, part of the Government's efforts to make Malaysia a 'garden nation' had targeted to plant 750,000 trees each year.

A total of 575,572 trees were planted in 1997 and 1,117,652 last year.

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