

# Mission to plant 1' 00, 000 trees in one minute

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**KLJALA LUMPUR, Wed:** In the effort to reach the target of three million trees planted before the next millennium, 100,000 trees will be planted simultaneously in one minute on Oct 15.

The programme, called Millennium Planting, will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will also be planting a tree at Bukit Jalil Park here.

Announcing this, Housina and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said 2,384,591 trees have been planted throughout the country up to June this year.

The Nationwide Tree Planting Campaign, aimed at creating a Garden Nation, started following a cabinet decision in March 1997. It was launched by Mahathir on March 3 that year.

"Anyone who wishes to take part in the Millennium Planting programme can contact their state government, the local authorities or the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS).

"They should refer to the National Landscape Department or Forest Reserve Institute Malaysia (FRIM) for the types of trees as there are some which are not suitable.

"We want trees which produce more oxygen and beau-

tify the environment. We do not want those with no positive impact or are poisonous," Ong said at the ministry here today.

Also present were National Landscape director-general Datuk Ismail Ngah and MNS Tree Planting Group chairman John S.C. Loh.

Ong said the remaining 0.6 million trees yet to be planted will be undertaken by the various state governments which have been instructed since 1997 to plant a certain number of trees.

The minister said a sum of RM1 million has been set aside by the National Landscape Department's federal government budget to supply the 100,000 small metre-high trees to the states.

The programme will start with a nationwide signal broadcast over RTM's radio networks and will be recorded in the Malaysia Book Of Records and Guinness Book Of Records.

Three records will be attempted: the maximum number of trees planted in one minute, in one day and in one week.

Local authorities will appoint a panel of judges to monitor the planting and count the number of trees planted after the one-minute period is over.