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Call for better quality of life

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IPOH, Sat. - The State Government wants the Ipoh City Council to further improve the quality of life of residents.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today dwellers in cities like New York, although a concrete jungle, enjoyed living and staying there as their local governments were far-sighted.

"We want the Ipoh local authority to provide facilities like more recreational outlets for all the people, including tourists," he told reporters after launching the Ipoh City Council 12th anniversary celebration at the Town Hall.

Tajol Rosli said he had instructed the council to develop Gunung Lang, off Jalan Kuala Kangsar, as another recreational site.

At present, the sites at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam and Taman Sultan Abdul Aziz could not cope with the large number of people visiting these places, especially in the evenings.

Tajol Rosli said a delegation would be in Vancouver, Canada, to visit a public park there and later incorporate key features in Gunung Lang.

He said he had also advised the council to introduce recreational horse-cart riding.

Tajol Rosli said the Kinta River waterfront project would begin in two months as the required groundwork had been laid.

This project, to be carried out in phases over 10 years, would begin with the utilisation of a 6km stretch of the Kinta River for boating facilities.

Tajol Rosli said apart from the council, the Department of Environment, Town and Country Planning Department and Department of Irrigation and Drainage would be roped in to provide their expertise.

He also gave a three-month grace period to councillors, administrators and the council's 3,000 staff to plant bougainvillea in the compound of their homes to "lead by example to make Ipoh the bougainvillea city".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had declared Ipoh the bougainvillea city in 1990.

"We will conduct inspection to see if they have heeded our advice," Tajol Rosli said, adding that the council would provide three or four bougainvillea plants free to each employee.

He said Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah would launch a State-level cleanliness campaign to inculcate the culture of keeping the environment tidy at all times.

The campaign would be launched during the Merdeka celebration month from Aug 17 to Sept 16.

Tajol Rosli also called on the council to work with the State Health Department to ensure food and beverage operators maintained cleanliness of their premises.

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