

24/08/2000

World record attempt on Oct 15 to plant 100,000 trees in a minute

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - A world record breaking feat to plant 100,000 trees nationwide within a minute will be attempted on Oct 15.

The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Tree Planting Group-Malaysian Nature Society.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to be among the participants.

The trees will be planted nationwide simultaneously after a signal broadcast over the radio at 10am on Oct 15. Dr Mahathir is expected to plant a tree at Taman Bukit Jalil.

The current world record is 24,159 trees in one week achieved in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said those who wanted to participate in the event, called "Millennium Gift of Trees to the Nation", could contact their respective local councils to get their free trees.

He said the National Landscaping Department would help the local council in any way possible.

There are only 64 categories of trees listed by the department which are suitable for this programme.

"These trees produce more oxygen than the others and are also beautiful," Ong said.

"Those interested can only plant their trees at gazetted areas," Ong told a Press conference.

The event is also expected to break two other records.

The first is to break the maximum number of trees planted in one town in one minute, which is 10,000 trees to be attempted in Lahad Datu, and the most number of trees in one day.

States which have undertaken to plant the trees are: Perak (which has targeted to plant 12,000 trees), Johor (11,500), Selangor (11,500), Kedah (8,000), Kelantan (7,000), Kuala Lumpur (7,000), Pahang (6,000), Penang (6,000), Negri Sembilan (4,000), Terengganu (4,000), Malacca (3,000), Perlis (1,000), Sabah (9,000), Sarawak (9,000) and Labuan (1,000).

"The objective of the programme is to encourage the public to create a clean and beautiful environment. It is also aimed at achieving the aim of making Malaysia a garden nation by the year 2005," said Ong.

The world record breaking feat, which will cost the ministry RM1 million, is part of the nation's tree planting campaign called "Gift of Trees" launched by Dr Mahathir in 1997.

The target during the launch was to plant three million trees by 2000.

"However, todate, we have planted 2,384,591 trees. Some of the States are lagging behind while some have exceeded their target."

Ong said those who were interested in contributing towards the tree-planting campaign could do so by donating RM100 for one tree. They could also contribute RM1,000 for an avenue (10 trees), RM2,500 for a garden (25 trees), RM5,000 for a woodland or RM10,000 for a forest.

Contributions can be made to the Malaysian Nature Society, JKR 641, Jalan Kelantan, Bukit Persekutuan, 50480 Kuala Lumpur or call 03-2879422 or 03-2873306.

(END)