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Perak to have botanical garden

SLIM RIVER, Tues. - A national botanical garden, to be modelled after the Bucharads Garden in Vancouver, Canada, will be set up in Perak.

The project will be undertaken by the National Landscape Department of the Housing and Local Government Ministry at a cost of RM50 million.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the State Government had agreed to allocate a piece of land covering some 400ha in Felda Kampung Bersih, Ulu Slim, near here, for the purpose.

Ulu Slim was chosen because of its undulating terrain with natural hot springs, salt licks and mining ponds which could be turned into recreational facilities.

The Bucharads Garden is one of the most popular gardens in the world. Covering some 25ha, the garden, formerly a quarry occupied by a cement factory, was developed over a period of 30 years.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the area yesterday, Tajol Rosli said the project was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently after a Cabinet meeting.

Tajol Rosli said Ulu Slim had the potential for being turned into a popular tourist destination, especially for visitors who love the back-to-nature kind of tour packages.

He said the project would not cause undue harm to the lush green surroundings or spoil the natural landscape as it would be built around the hot springs.

"The hot springs will be the main attraction here. With a temperature of almost boiling point at 98.2 degrees Celsius, it will undoubtedly attract visitors to the area."

Apart from the hot springs, there are also the Orang Asli settlement in Kampung Felda Bersih and the traditional village in Kampung Ulu Slim.

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