

04 MAR 2001

Ong-Developers

STERN ACTION AGAINST DEVELOPERS FOR HURTING ENVIRONS, SAYS ONG

PUTRAJAYA, March 4 (Bernama) -- Housing developers ignoring guidelines and conditions on cutting of trees and earth-levelling works will face stern action to commensurate the extent of damage inflicted on the environment.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said such errant developers might not be offered housing projects in future.

He said his ministry would not only blacklist the developers for their irresponsible action but also punish them for what they had done to the environment.

He said the government was giving serious attention to indiscriminate cutting of trees for development with no regard to the environment.

Developers must comply with the stipulated conditions as they were drawn up to preserve the environment, he told reporters after launching of the National Landscape Day by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

He said this when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's call to developers to pay heed to the topographical development plan and determine the rain water flow before an area was cleared for development.

Ong said his ministry had also imposed a condition that developers alienate a certain area as a green lung in housing schemes for recreational activities and to promote good neighbourliness.

He said the ministry would invoke provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act and other by-laws to take action against developers for not complying with the condition.

Earlier, in his speech, Ong said 3,000,298 trees or 100.1 per cent of the targeted three million trees have been planted during the nationwide tree-planting campaign from 1997 to last year.

The ministry has now set a new target to plant another 3.5 million trees till 2005, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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