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Trees-Industry

TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN MOVES ON TO INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- Efforts to make Malaysia a garden nation will be taken up by the industrial sector once the "Industrial Vision: Creating The Park Environment" project is implemented this year.

The project will be organised jointly by the National Landscape Department and Tree Planting Group-Malaysian Nature Society (TPG-MNS), Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin said.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Tree Forum 2002 here, he said the project would run over three years till 2005 during which some one million trees would be planted in factory and industrial areas.

"We hope the project will create a more congenial atmosphere for the workers in the factory or industrial area and also help enhance their productivity," he said.

TPG-MNS Manager John Loh said the project was aimed at increasing awareness among the industrial folks on the importance of trees in their lives.

It is hoped that some 1,000 trees would be planted daily in all parts of the country, he said.

Speaking at the function, Peter Chin said up to the end of last year a total of 3.45 million trees had been planted in the country following the tree planting campaign launched by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in 1997.

The campaign target was three million trees in 2000 and 20 million by 2020.

He expressed the hope that the trees would be planted in an orderly way that could improve the quality of the landscape and enhance scenic beauty.

Studies showed that a one hectare site planted with various species of trees could absorb 900kg of carbon dioxide and release 600kg of oxygen daily while 500,000 trees were capable of absorbing 6,500 tonnes of dust a year.

-- BERNAMA

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