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KL-Garden

KUALA LUMPUR, A GARDEN CITY BY 2005

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- By 2005, Kuala Lumpur will be a garden city with a boost from the Malaysian International Park and Landscape Festival (Laman 2004), brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Laman 2004, from July 17 to 24 next year will be held at 10 locations in Tasik Perdana, here.

The fest was today launched by Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui here.

"This fest is aimed at providing business opportunities where importers will get to meet exporters. This industry involves big returns in fact this fest will help turn Malaysia into an international landscape centre," he said.

The fest themed "Colours in Greenery" will involve local and international landscaping artists and will be on par with England's Chelsea Flower Show with turnover of billions of dollars.

"We want countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand to take part in this fest," Chin said.

Chin said the government had allocated about RM5 million for the fest to be hosted by Kuala Lumpur City Hall. The festival site including the decorations would remain even after the end of the fest.

Director-General of National Landscaping Department Datuk Ismail Ngah, who was also present at the function, said the department had long term plans to turn Malaysia into a garden nation.

"We have a special programme to decorate the country with colourful flowers and this will involve direct community participation. Each state department had a landscaping masterplan to landscape their respective areas," he said.

Housing developers should have attractive landscaping proposals, which would be evaluated by the local authorities, before beginning work on their housing projects.

Ten per cent of the total land surface of the housing project site should be turned into a green lung, he said.

-- BERNAMA

AY AHH AAM