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Ong-recycling

RECYCLING PROGRAMME: MANUFACTURING SECTOR CAN PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE

PONTIAN, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- The country's manufacturing can play an important role in making the recycling programme a success, without having to spend millions of ringgit per month to import recyclable materials like scrap metal, plastics and bottles, said Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting today.

He said the manufacturing sector could save cost by taking advantage of the big volume of local recyclable materials.

"Malaysia discharges 16,000 tonnes of solid wastes every day and smart use of solid wastes by manufacturers will certainly reduce disposal problem," he said at the delivery of compactor lorries and communal bins to local authorities in Johor, here.

Ong said the manufacturing sector's involvement was necessary considering that the existing 180 disposal sites nationwide would only be good for two more years or so.

"The waste disposal sites are shrinking as the population increases...it poses problem in disposing solid wastes, causing toxic waste pollution," he said.

Ong said that although the federal government was looking into ways of systematic disposal of solid wastes, certain measures still had to be taken including recycling programme to minimise impact on the environment.

He said there was also a need to enhance public awareness on the importance of recycling programme through intensive campaigns and billboard advertisement.

So far this year, he said the ministry had presented 20 compactor lorries to 12 local authorities and 280 communal bins to 14 local authorities in Johor, involving an allocation of RM5.1 million.

Apart from the cost for the purchase of lorries and bins, he said the ministry also allocated RM3.2 million to Johor this year to upgrade solid waste disposal sites in the state.

Speaking at a news conference later, Ong said that another issue of public importance was the poor state of public toilets in the country.

The Public Toilet Committee set up last year was formulating an action plan for consideration by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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