

# PM: 4 WAYS TO BOOST NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Making Malaysia the most beautiful garden nation is not impossible, says Ismail Sabri

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**A** BALANCED physical and landscape development must be made the foundation to improve the quality and sustainability of the country's landscape.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said this must also be based on improvements in the social and economic values of Keluarga Malaysia, as well as the increase in the value of national assets, whether tangible or intangible.

He said this at the launch of the National Landscape Day in Taman Ekoflora here yesterday.

He said to ensure Malaysians received the most benefit, the National Landscape programme must be continued and the importance of landscape in national development must be strengthened.

He said four directions should be prioritised in the development of national landscape.

"The first is to streamline the national landscape network system.

"It is fitting that the expansion of the country's green infrastructure provision will be given priority through a comprehensive landscape development programme approach.

"The second is to harness the potential and economic value of the landscape industry.

"In line with global changes, we should harness the potential of the landscape industry as an economic value or as a source of return and a new economy for the country."

Present were Johor caretaker menteri besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican.

Ismail Sabri said it was important to protect Keluarga Malaysia's landscape assets by establishing a legal control method as the loss of assets could cause losses to the country.

This, he added, was to ensure that each landscape asset could be protected in addition to effective continuous education.

"Lastly, the quality of national landscape services should be improved.

"A complete landscape organisation at agency, state and local levels is vital to ensure the best service can be provided for Keluarga Malaysia."

Making Malaysia a *Negara*

*Taman Terindah* (The Most Beautiful Garden Nation) was difficult to achieve, he said, but it was not impossible.

He said in the past 25 years, parks with a land size of 9,578.56ha had been developed.

He said it was the government's aim for each state to have a public park with the concept of a *taman persekutuan* (federal park) as it could improve public access to landscaped areas.

This, he added, would increase the number of green areas, especially in urban areas, which contributed to low carbon and urban environmental comfort.

"People are more aware of the importance of landscape in the environment and for their well-being.

"Public parks and recreational areas have become a therapeutic space for Keluarga Malaysia as they help reduce stress, as well as improve mental and physical wellbeing."

He said data had shown an increase in visitors to Bukit Kiara Federal Park in Kuala Lumpur by 287.10 per cent in 2021 from previous years, proving that parks had become the main recreational space during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I hope that landscape development in the next 25 years will be more advanced and offer superior quality for future generations to enjoy, and this needs to start today."