

Green urban living to reshape country's landscape

JOHOR BARU: The country's landscape is set to be transformed under the National Beautification Parks agenda, says Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The Prime Minister said the move will ensure a green ecological balance that shifts in tandem with the nation's physical development while creating a low-carbon environment in urban areas.

"It is not easy to achieve but not impossible to realise.

"Over the past 25 years, the government has successfully developed over 9,578ha of land into parks throughout the country through the cooperation of all parties.

"It is the government's intention to see every state having a public park with the concept of a federal park to increase the people's access to green urban areas," he said in his speech during the opening ceremony of the National Landscape Day at Taman Ekoflora yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the government is also optimistic that the concept will become the mainstay of the country's landscape planning, starting with the streamlining of the landscape network system.

"The government will harness the potential and economic value of the landscape industry in line with

global changes. A method of legal control will also be created specifically to protect Malaysia's landscape assets," he said.

Separately, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the government is gearing up to develop the country's landscape and flower industry as one of its high economic sectors for the future.

"Based on the high demand of the world market with an annual growth rate of 6%, the industry is expected to generate RM509mil per year to the country.

"Malaysia has great potential to be a producer of flower seeds in the world market, specifically for tropical climate countries," he said.

Reezal Merican said they are looking at several models of landscape and flower industry development as a reference for the National Landscape Industry Development Plan.

"It's a new industry that can be explored to create job opportunities as well as academic studies," he added.



Green potential: Ismail Sabri (left) and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Hasni Mohammad visiting some of the booths during National Landscape Day held at Taman Ekoflora in Johor Baru. - THOMAS YONG/The Star