

Headline	Ministry to encourage councils to plant more indigenous tree species		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	04 Oct 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	88,150
Page No	5	Readership	166,173
Language	English	ArticleSize	176 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,013
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,040



Ministry to encourage councils to plant more indigenous tree species

KUCHING: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will carry out more initiatives to encourage the planting of more suitable indigenous tree species instead of growing landscape or ornamental plants in urban areas.

"Urban forests and parks need to be managed just as natural forests as they too are our valuable heritage which we will leave behind for generations to come," said its minister Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas.

He said urban forests as well as urban green areas which encompassed parks and gardens, playgrounds, domestic gardens, parking spaces, roadside open spaces and urban vegetation among others are seen to contribute significantly in providing urban dwellers a better living environment.

He cited Reservoir Park, Sama Jaya Nature Reserve, the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Campus in Kepong and the Putrajaya Botanical Gardens as commendable urban parks.

In an effort to protect our environment and ensure sustainable development, he said the ministry had embarked on nation-wide planting campaign to plant 26 million trees by 2014.

"The 26 million trees represent the estimated 26 million population of the country, thus targeting a 1:1 tree to citizen ratio and some 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide to be absorbed due to the trees planted.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has successfully planted a total of 28.8 million trees throughout the country, far surpassing its target of 26 million trees by 2014," said Uggah at the opening of the two-day Urban Forestry Conference 2012 themed 'Forests and Parks: Communicating Messages for Sustainability' at a leading hotel here yesterday.

His text of speech was read by the ministry's deputy secretary general Datuk Dr Mohd Ali Mohd Nor.

The conference was jointly organised by FRIM, Kuching North City Commission (DBKU), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB) as well as International Union of Forest Research Organisations and International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration.

Among other objectives, it aims to provide a platform for sharing the best ways to communicate messages through urban forests and parks and to review the progress and status of urban forest and parks development.

It attracted some 80 participants and will see 18 papers presented by local and overseas experts.