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City's hills marked as tourist attractions

KUALA LUMPUR: City Hall recently launched Environment Week at Kepong Metropolitan Park.

Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib, who launched the event, said City Hall had planted about 37,000 trees in the city, to date.

"We are committed to making the city green and that is why we have a Memorandum of Understanding with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). FRIM will advise us on the suitability of tree species for planting in different areas.

"For instance, FRIM had advised us to remove some of the trees along Jalan Mahameru as the roots are not strong enough to hold the weight of the trees as they grow older. So our contractors have recently cut down the trees as we were worried that they could collapse any time, especially during the rainy season," said Phesal.

"We also want to emulate Australia, which has small trees planted along the highways and public areas in its cities."



Participants are off to a good start in the run held at the launch of Environment Week at Kepong Metropolitan Park. Pic by Yazit Razali

The launch programme saw visitors participating in various activities such as a colouring contest, collage-making, nature hunts and a green run. There were also exhibitions and booths on environmental awareness set up by government and private agencies.

Meanwhile, Phesal said, several hills and slopes in the city had been marked for protection from development of any kind.

He said Bukit Tabur in Taman Melawati and Bukit Dinding in Wangsa Maju were

among the hills that had been gazetted as permanent forest reserves.

"In accordance with the guidelines for hill slope development in Kuala Lumpur 2010, these hills are categorised in Class Four, which are slope levels at more than 32 degrees. Hence, these areas should not be touched as they are not safe for any type of residential or commercial development.

"Besides conserving nature, we also want these hills to be tourist attractions in the city," he said.