KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	STAR METRO			
TARIKH	:	09.03.22	MUKA SURAT	:	5
JABATAN	:	JPSM			

Initiative to restore coastal habitats

Tree planting programme targets river estuary and beach in Sepang

By VIJENTHI NAIR
vijenthi@thestar.com.my

MORE than 1,000 mangrove trees were planted at the Sungai Sepang Besar estuary, while another 600 trees were planted by the beach in Pantai Bagan Lalang, Selangor.

The tree planting programme was jointly organised by the Institute of Foresters Malaysia (Irim), Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang), Malaysian Professional Centre and the Selangor Forestry Department.

Some 150 volunteers, including Universiti Putra Malaysia students, were involved in the initiative.

MPSepang president Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain said the tree planting at the beach was crucial in controlling the climate and acting as a natural buffer to reduce damage caused by erosion, beside being a barricade to reduce the effects of waves.

He said the programme was also aimed at restoring coastal habitats that were important to biological diversity and enriching coastal resources.

"Indirectly, it will ensure the safety of food sources from the sea and the socioeconomic status of fishermen.

"Global warming is a great concern, as seen with the rising of sea levels, floods and other phenomena.

"Trees can help reduce the urban heat island phenomenon too," he stressed.





Some 150 volunteers planting trees at the Sungai Sepang Besar estuary. (Right) Abd Hamid joining in the mangrove tree planting initiative. – LOW BOON TAT/The Star

On tree maintenance in general, Abd Hamid said some people believed big trees were dangerous and should be felled to avoid untoward incidents, while others were of the opinion that such big trees were essential for life and natural air.

"Research has proven that trees are very important for environmental sustainability and human health. Therefore, felling of trees is not necessarily the best solution to prevent them from uprooting.

"MPSepang has begun engaging the services of arborists for preservation and conservation of trees, thereby using the best maintenance methods to solve tree-related problems in the municipality.

"In my opinion, trees must be appreciated for their aesthetic value as well as for providing shade, reducing air and noise pollution and absorbing carbon dioxide.

"This is in line with the local council's goal to become a low-carbon city by 2030," he elaborated.

Abd Hamid said Selangor had started planting trees since 2008, and a target was set for every local authority to plant 50,000 trees annually.

Irim president Dr Mohamed Zakaria Hussin said at least 27 million trees had been planted since the launch of the national 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign 2021-2025 on Jan 1 last year.

"We have another 73 million trees to plant by December 2025.

"I hope such programmes will continue to achieve the target.

"I am thankful to the volunteers who are helping with the programme," he added.

Watch the video
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