

Govt campaign to plant 100 million trees in five years

22 December 2020

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is embarking on a mission to plant 100 million trees in five years starting Jan 5.

And to kickstart the campaign, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (pic) will plant the first tree - the Merbau tree which is Malaysia's national tree.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah said the campaign is meant to spread awareness to all Malaysians on the importance of preserving the country's forest areas.

"This is also one of Malaysia's efforts to ensure that at least 50% of the country is covered by trees and forest areas, in line with the pledge we made at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

"As of today, Malaysia has a forest cover of 55.3% and hopefully this can be maintained through this campaign," said Shamsul at the pre-launch event of the 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign 2021-2025 at his ministry here on Tuesday (Dec 22).

Shamsul said the official theme of the campaign is "Greening Malaysia: Our Trees Our Life".

The official launch of the campaign will be held at Seri Perdana on Jan 5, which will be graced by Muhyiddin.

The Prime Minister is set to plant the Malacca Teak (Intsia Palembanica) - or better known as the Merbau tree - during the event.

Simultaneously, all other chief ministers and mentris besar will also be planting the first trees of the campaign in their states.

Shamsul said the government hopes 20 million or more trees can be planted during the first year.

"We hope that many Malaysians will participate in this campaign and plant trees in whatever way they can.

"The people can plant the trees in their own yards or farms.

"Hopefully, non-governmental organisations, private sectors or even universities can contribute in some way to the campaign. The more people participate, the faster we can reach our goal," said Shamsul.

As an aid to the programme, a mobile app and a website will be launched on Jan 5.

Shamsul said the app and website will act as a counter to record how many trees have been planted so far throughout the campaign.

There will also be educational guides on the different species of trees, as well as technique manuals on how to plant and take care of trees.

Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/12/22/green-quest-govt-campaign-to-plant-100-million-trees-in-five-years>