

Headline	Govt launches campaign to `green` country		
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# Govt launches campaign to 'green' country

➤ PM calls on people to participate in '100 Million Trees Planting Programme' to improve environment

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysians have been urged to participate in efforts to preserve the country's natural diversity.

It would help improve biodiversity, which is a national treasure, and enhance the quality of the environment and rivers, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the people could start by planting trees to help the country achieve its "100 Million Trees Planting Programme".

The government is aiming to complete the programme, which comes under the Greening Malaysia agenda, by 2025.

Muhyiddin kicked off the campaign yesterday by planting a Merbau tree on the grounds of Seri Perdana, the prime minister's official residence.

In his speech, Muhyiddin called on the people to participate in the campaign to ensure the success of the agenda to make

Malaysia green.

He also launched a mobile app for the programme and a special website, [www.100jutapokok.gov.my](http://www.100jutapokok.gov.my).

Also present were Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah, Deputy Minister Ali Biju, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and ministry secretary-general Datuk Zurinah Pawanteh, Bernama reported.

The campaign was also launched simultaneously at state level with the theme "Greening Malaysia: Our Trees, Our Life".

In a statement later, Muhyiddin said the 100 Million Trees Planting Campaign was part of national agendas to address climate change and improve the quality of life.

"The Greening Malaysia Programme is also a pledge and commitment by the government based on the Shared Prosperity

Vision to contribute to a greener future."

The objective of the campaign, organised by the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry with cooperation from the Forestry Department, state forestry departments, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and state governments, is to have 100 million trees planted nationwide over the next five years.

Muhyiddin said through the campaign, preserved forest areas would be increased from 20,000 to 80,000 by 2025.

"The additional trees planted would be able to absorb 30 million tonnes of carbon in urban areas and another 85 million tonnes in forested and other areas."

He added that it is also the government's objective to protect the country's natural resources in all socio-economic development activities and to maintain the global recognition of Malaysia as one of 12 megadiverse countries.

Malaysia has managed to record forest cover of 55.3%, in line with a pledge made at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to maintain at least 50% of the country's landmass under forest cover.