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Rangers appointed to enhance care of parks in KL

KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has introduced rangers at parks in the country's capital city to provide educational tours while ensuring visitors' safety.

Previously, the duties of these uniformed men and women, known as assistant agricultural officers, were limited to tending to plants.

Their new title – the first such positions by a local authority in Malaysia – is in recognition of their wider job scope now which involves managing planned visits, giving talks and monitoring closed-circuit television cameras in parks.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said they must also identify any damaged and dead trees in the city that needed pruning.

"We currently have 55 rangers in charge of 16 public parks and 405 neighbourhood parks in Kuala Lumpur," he said at the launch of the *Wayside Trees: The Natural Pillars and Roofs of the Perdana Botanical Garden* book at Taman Botani Perdana in Kuala Lumpur.



Mahadi (right) meeting with the park rangers at Taman Botani Perdana Kuala Lumpur.

The book – which was a joint effort between DBKL and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) – contains details of 343 species of plants found at the lake garden.

Asked if there were plans to hire more rangers to enhance coverage

at the parks, Mahadi said the matter would be reviewed from time to time.

DBKL Landscape Development and Recreational director Zulkifli Endut said the rangers would report vandals to the

enforcement officers.

"Although the rangers have the power to carry out enforcement, they are yet to be trained to do so," he added.

To reflect their new job title, the park rangers received a uniform of a grey shirt and green trousers.

Relating the cooperation with FRIM, Mahadi said it began in 2007 and was aimed at research on tree management and horticulture in the capital.

He said several suitable species were identified via the stud and would be planted at Taman Etnobotani in Tasik Perdana, Jalan Tanglin.

At the event, representatives from the National Library and Kuala Lumpur Library as well as libraries of FRIM and Universiti Putra Malaysia received copies of the book.

Also present at the event were DBKL executive director (Management) Datuk Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh and FRIM director-general Dr Ismail Parlan.