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'Bentong's development should be sustainable'

Preserve town's ecosystem to enhance district's ecotourism, says minister

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WHILE Bentong is experiencing rapid development, it is crucial for it to be done sustainably with minimum impact to the environment.

Bentong MP and MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said Bentong was set to become a satellite city for Greater Kuala Lumpur and was also one of the stops in the East Coast Rail Line track.

"However, it is also important that we continue to care for the environment in our development journey.

"We cannot pollute the environment or indiscriminately chop down trees," he said.

Liow, who is also Transport Minister, was addressing students of SMK Sulaiman in Bentong who participated in the school's recycling campaign.

He also reminded students of environmental issues such as global warming and climate change.

"You can see its effects in the change in weather patterns, but you can do something about it," he said.

He told the students that the skills they learned could also help them preserve Bentong's natural ecosystem which was crucial to

continuing the district's ecotourism sector.

"Bentong is well-known as an ecotourism hub and tourists come here to enjoy the unpolluted air and scenery," he said.

Liow also said the knowledge students gained from the campaign could significantly help the country reduce carbon emissions.

"The Government is targeting a 40% carbon reduction by 2020 and 20% of the effort could be achieved through recycling," he said.

He added that sustainable development might not be an easy feat but hoped the students would apply what they learned in the campaign to inspire others to work towards it.