



**Going green:** Hamim (right) planting a tree during his visit to the Terla B Forest Reserve Nursery Centre near Cameron Highlands.

## 500ha of Camerons forest reserves to be replanted

**CAMERON HIGHLANDS:** Some 500ha of forest reserve areas here, which have suffered serious encroachment problems, will be replanted with trees.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri said the Government had allocated RM32mil for this.

He said the project fell under the 11th Malaysia Plan and so far, some 35ha of encroached land had already been planted with trees in the last two years.

Hamim said the encroachment had also resulted in flooding and that planting more trees was one way to prevent severe disasters from re-occurring.

There are 17 forest reserves in Cameron Highlands.

"We have a long way to go in ensuring that the 500ha of land area affected by the indiscriminate clearing for agriculture, as well as unscrupulous farming

practices, are rehabilitated.

"The trees will be planted in stages to ensure that the five-year target under the Greening Cameron Highlands Action Plan is a success," he told reporters after a tree planting ceremony at the Terla B Forest Reserve here yesterday.

When asked about the progress of the Bertam Valley flood mitigation project, Pahang Drainage and Irrigation Department director Shaharuddin Ibrahim said the project was 98% completed and already functioning.

With the deepening and widening of Sungai Bertam, the river's water capacity had increased from five cubic metres per second to 220 cubic metres per second, he said.

"We hope that with the project in place now, the area will be flood-free. This project is set to benefit some 3,000 residents in the area," he added.