

E-NEWSLETTER

SARAWAK OIL PALM PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Chairman's Message

Eric Kiu Kwong Seng

Hi Members,

I truly believe that consistent communication between SOPPOA, members and stakeholders helps to create positive experiences, build better relationships, and deliver better outcomes.

I hope that this newsletter will provide all members with another informative glimpse of activities carried out by SOPPOA in the past 2 months.

Rest assured that foreign worker is still a top priority on the to-do-list for SOPPOA. Nevertheless, the secretariat will not neglect to perform other duties those are important to the association and members.

The secretariat has visited the MPOB Chairman, MPOC Chairman and the Undersecretary of MPIC to request for the reinstatement of SOPPOA into the MPOB's board which was not extended after 2020.

A recent visit to SAVTI found that the institute has long offered oil palm plantation management courses to SPM school leavers. In this respect, SOPPOA has requested the possibility of the institute to consider offering similar course to existing plantation workers.

According to the State Secretary, due to security issues, the proposal to have Bangladeshi for Sarawak oil palm sector was rejected by the State cabinet. In this respect, Indonesia remains the only source country for foreign workers. On separate note, he agreed to look into the request to revise the existing threshold for levying CPO SST which was brought to the attention of Premier early this year.

And last but not the least, I want to thank those members who have contributed financially to SOPPOA for supporting the AsianFlux 2022 as the Lead Partner.

Happy reading.



COURTESY CALL TO KEY FEDERAL OFFICIALS ON 1 & 2 AUG 2022



The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) is responsible for plantation and commodities: palm oil, rubber, timber, furniture, cocoa, pepper, kenaf and tobacco.

The current minister administers the portfolio through the MPIC is YB Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin and Datuk Ravi Muthayah as the Secretary-General.

The Palm and Sago Industry Development Division (BISS) is one of the 5 sectors under the Plantation and Commodity Sector which is headed by the Undersecretary Tn. Severinus Tukah.

BISS bears the responsibility to monitor and coordinate the policies, procedures, budgets and issues pertaining to the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil palm industry (and the development of the sago industry) as well as to monitor and evaluate the implementation of government policies and directives by MPOB, MPOC and MPOCC.

MPOB is a leading government agency responsible for leading and developing the country's palm oil industry. MPOB's core activities are research and development ranging from upstream production to the processing of downstream palm oil products, supported by regulatory measures to ensure a healthy development of the oil palm industry.

MPOB also provides technical advisory services to support the development of the palm oil industry through pilot plant facilities, laboratories, scientific studies, technical advisory services, technical consultancy, scientific publications, technical training, conferences and seminars, technology transfer and expansion services.

MPOC established in 1990, roles is to promote market expansion of Malaysian palm oil and its products in the global markets. This is pursued by enhancing the image and demand for Malaysian palm oil through awareness of various techno-economic advantages and environmental sustainability of the commodity.

MPOC has a network of ten offices all over the world namely in China (Shanghai), India (Mumbai), Pakistan (Lahore), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Middle East (Istanbul and Cairo), Europe (Brussels and Moscow), South Africa (Johannesburg) and Americas (Washington, D.C.), to promote Malaysian palm oil and provide services to its customers.



(From top to bottom): Undersecretary of BISS, Tn Severinus Tukah; MPOC Chairman, YB Tn Larry Sgn, and MPOB Chairman, YB Tn. Jugah Anak Muyang. The meeting was to discuss about the re-instatement of SOPPOA into MPOB BOD which was not extended after 2020.

Visit To SAVTI On 18 Aug 2022



1 Background

SAVTI was set up by the Sarawak Department of Agriculture in 1996. On 1 January 2005, the Sarawak Skills Development Center (Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak – PPKS) took over the operations of SAVTI with the objective of complementing the State government in its effort to develop a suitable skilled workforce, and increase the skilled and semi-skilled manpower for the plantation sector in Sarawak.

SAVTI holds Malaysian Skills Certificate (SKM) based on the National Occupation Skills Standard (NOSS) which was established by the Department of Skills Development (Ministry of Human Resources).

It currently offers Oil Palm Operation and Supervision – Level 3.

2 Oil Palm Program

The oil palm program takes 15 months to complete. There are 4 intakes per year. To date, SAVTI has taken in a total of 48 batches of students whereby each batch consists of 25 students. Besides, there is oil palm program available for working adults too.

3 Criteria For Enrolment

There is no stringent conditions for enrolment of oil palm program. However, SAVTI encourages those who are above 16 years old and have completed Form 5.

4 Fee Structure

The tuition fee for the whole program is RM7,000 per student. The rental for hostel is RM50 per month and estimated cost for monthly ration per student is around RM200.

All the students currently enrol with SAVTI are fortunate as they are fully sponsored by the state government.

5 Student

SAVTI accepts students from different background. Currently, for the first time, there are 7 female students enrol in the oil palm program.

Nama Kursus dan Kod (Jika ada) dan Tahap		Penyeliaan & Operasi Penanaman Kelapa Sawit (RB-081-3:2012)	
Tempoh Kursus		15 bulan	
Struktur Modul	CA	CORE ABILITIES TAHAP 1,2,3	1 BULAN
	Cu 1	OIL PALM OPERATION	2 BULAN
	Cu 2	OIL PALM FIELD UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE	2.5 BULAN
	Cu 3	OIL PALM MANUSTING	1.5 BULAN
	Cu 4	OIL PALM HVESTING & COLLECTION OPERATION	1.5 BULAN
	Cu 5	FIELD OPERATION ADMINISTRATION	2 BULAN
	Cu 6	OIL PALM PRODUCTION OPERATION QUALITY CONTROL	2 BULAN
	Cu 7	OIL PALM MECHANISATION APPLICATION SUPERVISION	1 BULAN
E-01		OIL PALM NURSERY OPERATION SUPERVISION	1.5 BULAN

砂油棕種植業者協會 訪砂農職學院商合作

(本报古晋20日讯) 砂拉越油棕种植业者协会 (SOPPOA) 主席邱冠森亲自率领团队前往拜会位于美里蓝卑尔砂拉越农业职业培训学院 (SAVTI)。

该协会主席邱冠森是在该协会第一副主席Simon Wong Siik Onn、首席执行官毛维浩博士、成员Joseph Ling及Jasmine Kulay的陪同下拜会有关学院。该学院是隶属于砂拉越技能集团、旗下的学习机构。

学院经理马克林协同其他同事亲自接待有关拜会行动，分别介绍学院各方面运营，同时带领访问团亲自参观学院内部设备。

砂拉越油棕种植业者协会 (SOPPOA) 首席执行官毛维浩博士今日发文告，如是透露。

在拜会期间，主席邱冠森表示对有关学院留下了深刻印象，并指出，实际上该学院的位置靠近自己的小型油棕园，这不仅能让学生们亲自接触真正的种植园环境，更能促使他们在接受课程培训之际，进行实地培训操作。

此外，透过此次拜访行动，进一步为双方探索机提供了各种合作契机平台，特别是在砂拉越油棕种植业员工的技能提升及再培训方面。



砂拉越油棕种植业者协会 (SOPPOA) 一众成员在主席邱冠森 (左5) 陪同下，前往拜会位于美里蓝卑尔砂拉越农业职业培训学院 (SAVTI)。

Soppoa explores collaboration opportunities with Savti

KUCHING: Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (Soppoa) visited Sarawak Agriculture Vocational Training Institute (Savti) which is part of the Sarawak Skills Group of Learning Institutions in Lambir, Miri recently.

The delegation was led by Soppoa chairman Eric Kiu Kwong Seng, together with first vice chairman Simon Wong Siik Onn, chief

executive officer Dr Felix Moh Mee Ho as well as members Joseph Ling and Jasmine Kulay.

The group was taken on a tour of the facility and was briefed on every aspect of the institute by Savti centre manager Maccollin Jengok.

Kiu was impressed with the set up and noted that the strategic location of the institute next to its own mini oil palm estate not only exposes

students to the real plantation environment but also allow them to apply their knowledge and skills that they have learned at the field training while pursuing their education.

The visit has further paved the way for both parties to explore various opportunities for collaboration, especially in the area of upskilling and reskilling of workers in Sarawak oil palm plantation sector.



KUNJUNGAN: Rombongan SOPPOA bersama wakil SAVTI merakam kenangan semasa lawatan baru-baru ini.

Pengerusi SOPPOA adakan lawatan rasmi ke SAVTI

KUCHING: Pengerusi Persatuan Pemilik-Pemilik Ladang Kelapa Sawit Sarawak (SOPPOA) Eric Kiu mengadakan lawatan rasmi ke Institut Latihan Vokasional Pertanian Sarawak (SAVTI) yang merupakan sebahagian daripada Institusi Pembelajaran Kumpulan Kemahiran Sarawak di Lambir, Miri.

Lawatan berkenaan turut diiringi oleh Naib Pengerusi 1 Simon Wong, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Dr Felix Moh serta ahli Joseph Ling dan

Jasmine Kulay.

Rombongan tersebut disambut oleh Pengurus Pusat Maccollin Jengok dan rakan sekerja lain yang memperkenalkan setiap aspek institut serta membawa ahli SOPPOA melawat kemudahan mereka.

Kiu kagum dengan lokasi strategik institut itu yang mempunyai ladang kelapa sawit mini sendiri terletak bersebelahan.

Katanya, ia bukan sahaja mendedahkan pelajar kepada

persekitaran ladang sebenar tetapi juga membolehkan mereka mempraktikkan pengetahuan dan kemahiran yang dipelajari di lapangan semasa melanjutkan pelajaran.

Lawatan itu telah membuka jalan kepada kedua-dua pihak untuk menerokai pelbagai peluang kerjasama terutama bidang peningkatan kemahiran dan pemahiran semula pekerja dalam sektor perladangan kelapa sawit di Sarawak.

Courtesy Call To Sarawak State Secretary On 19 Aug 2022



Eric Kiu made a courtesy call on Dato Sri Abu Bakar at Wisma Bapa Malaysia on Aug 19 accompanied by Dr. Felix Moh, Shannon Yii, Alexi Lawrence Marcel Wan Ullock and Edwin Ha. Tuan Jack Merudu Ko, director for Department of Labor, Immigration and Project Monitoring Sarawak was also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to share and update some of the developments and challenges of Sarawak palm oil.

Dato Sri Mohamad Abu Bakar Marzuki was appointed as the new Sarawak government secretary effective Jul 22, taking over from Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, who had recently retired. Previously he was deputy state secretary since 2018. Prior to that, he was State Planning Unit director and Sarawak Foundation director.

Eric Kiu took the opportunity to congratulate Dato Sri Abu Bakar on his promotion.

Dato Sri Abu Bakar informed that he will pay much attention on industrial engagements. This way, government is able to position its policy in helping the industry and in turn improve the socio-economy of the state.

He iterated that government officials should facilitate industrial players and enforce policy that benefit both parties. He disagreed that authority is used to mere penalizing others or issue summons as this may not necessarily improve the situation.

For example, by putting one in cell may create other problems.

However, he politely reminded that industry cannot take such leniency for granted as they have parts to play in socio-economy development.

1. FOREIGN WORKERS

SOPPOA briefed that the arrival of Indonesian workers to work in oil palm plantation is slow and remains a challenge since the Covid-19 lockdown.

While this may be attributed to the imposition of restriction on the Indonesia's side, the long processing times involving the application for AP, New Labor License, and Calling Visa still lengthy as experienced by most members.

In response to Dato Sri Abu Bakar, Tuan Jack Merudu informed that his department is working toward reducing the processing times for example from 3 months to 7 days for New Labor License application.

In this respect, Dato Sri Abu Bakar opined that there should be no reason a New Labor License cannot be issued within a day and promised to look into the whole process for improvement.

SOPPOA is tasked to produce a detail flow chart and identify all the possible bottlenecks within the foreign recruitment processes for his study.

On the other source countries for foreign workers, Dato Sri Abu Bakar informed that the cabinet rejected the proposal to consider Bangladeshi for plantation on the basis of security. He however informed that the Bangladeshi will be allowed for certain construction sector with proper confined perimeter.

SOPPOA informed that Bangladeshi has been tested in Semenanjung Malaysia and found that even though they are not as good as Indonesian workers for harvesting, they are suitable for other field activities.

► From...06

To avoid over dependence on Indonesian, SOPPOA suggested to look into hiring Timorese as they have similar culture to the former. Similar suggestion was made to Dato Gerawat in a separate meeting who like Dato Sri Abu Bakar also supported the idea.

2. STATE SALES TAX (SST)

SOPPOA presented a case study showing that the cost of production has increased from RM2,000 to RM2,300 per ton CPO between 2014 and 2019.

As a result of higher input costs like fertilizer, labor and transportation, many members reportedly experience close to RM2,500 per ton for cost of production.

Sarawak pays SST when CPO reaches RM1,000 and cap at 5% maximum when its price is above RM1,500.

With the higher cost of production, the existing threshold of RM1,000 is no longer reflecting the actual industry landscape. Therefore, SOPPOA opined that RM2,000 is more realistic.

SOPPOA informed that the suggestion was made known to the Premier earlier this year and who has instructed the then SS to investigate further.

On this note, Dato Sri Abu agreed to forward the matter to State Financial Secretary for further study.

3. PEAT SOIL ESTATES

Nearly 44% of the oil palm is planted on peat soil in Sarawak that is marginal and prone to flooding. On top of that, it is more expensive to manage compares to mineral soil estates.

Peat soil estates also susceptible to many other problems such as high incidents of pests and diseases, lower fresh fruit yield, poorer oil extraction to name a few.

Dato Sri Abu Bakar acknowledged that there should be more R&Ds to be carried out to improve the productivity and sustainability of oil palm in Sarawak as this crop contributes significantly to the state's economy.

He also stressed that there are many excellent learning and research institutions in the state who are capable on palm oil R&D.

Dato Sri Abu Bakar also welcomed the idea by SOPPOA to having a Sarawak based palm oil agency to focus on the development of palm oil industry here.

應對印尼工人短缺 油棕園或僱東帝汶人

(本報古晉21日訊) 砂拉越可能研究是否適合從東帝汶雇用外國工人在本州的油棕種植園工作，以應對印尼工人的勞動力短缺。

上周五(2022年8月19日)，砂拉越油棕種植業者協會主席邱冠森率領代表團禮節性拜訪州務秘書拿督斯里莫哈末阿布巴卡時，轉達了這個問題。

根據砂拉越油棕種植業者協會(SOPPOA)首席執行員毛維浩博士今日發表的一份聲明，印尼工人的緩慢到來仍然是自新冠疫情封鎖以來，面臨工人嚴重短缺的油棕種植者之挑戰。

“砂拉越油棕種植業者協會尊重州內閣的決定，即目前不批准允許孟加拉國人在種植園工作的請求。”

“然而，莫哈末阿布巴卡

接受了調查東帝汶工人是否適合的建議，因為他們在文化上與印尼人相似。”

迄今為止，只有印尼人被允許在砂拉越的油棕種植園工作。

還有許多迹象表明，印尼政府不鼓勵其公民在馬來西亞工作，尤其是隨著印尼新首都奴山塔拉的發展，這將需要約100萬人勞動力。

砂拉越油棕種植業者協會進一步提到，涉及申請准證、新勞工執照和簽證的處理時間長，也可能導致雇用外國工人被延遲。

“在這方面，莫哈末阿布巴卡認為不應該出現這樣的不便，並相信很快就會簡化流程。例如，他認為理想情況下，新勞工執照的批准應該在一天內，而不是七天之內。”

外勞緩慢到位 油棕業人力仍不足

(詩巫22日訊) 砂拉越油棕種植業者協會(SOPPOA)主席邱冠森指出，印尼工人緩慢到位仍然是油棕種植者面臨的挑戰。

他說，印尼政府可能會施加某些限制來阻止其公民在馬來西亞工作，但涉及申請 AP、新勞工執照及簽證的處理也可能在一定程度上導致延遲雇用外國工人。

邱冠森於日前帶領該會一行八人禮貌拜訪剛受委砂州務秘書的拿督斯里莫哈末阿布巴卡，分享砂拉越油棕業的一些發展和挑戰。

“莫哈末阿布巴卡認為這樣的不便不應該出現，他相信這些流程將很快簡化。例如，他認為新勞工執照最好在1天之內批准，而不是7天。”

關於外國工人的其他來源國，邱冠森說，砂拉越油棕種植業者協會承認尊重州內閣的決定，即目前不批准申請孟加拉籍工人在種植園工作的請求。然而，莫哈末阿布巴卡表示會進一步研究東帝汶人是否適合在種植園工作的建議，他們文化與印尼人相似。

“我們感謝砂總署副部長(勞工、移民及項目監督)拿督格拉瓦加拉在過去幾個月孜孜不倦尋找解決和改善外勞問題。”

去年油棕業納稅額高

邱冠森也說，2021年由於原棕油價格有利，砂拉越油棕業為國家創造大量稅收，包括通過大馬油棕局的稅捐(6250萬令吉)、釐金稅(3.94億令吉)、銷售稅(10億令吉)、出口稅(15億令吉)以及公司稅(20%至28%)。儘管如此，該行業仍然面臨許多需要政府不時支持的挑戰，其中一項是外勞勞工。

他指出，該會成員種植園佔全

砂總種植面積近70%，其中來自不同規模的油棕種植者，包括政府土地開發機構和獨立小農主。目前，砂拉越擁有161萬公頃的油棕種植園和84家棕油廠，去年生產390萬噸原棕油。

他披露，棕油的稅率介乎47%至52%之間，當原棕油達到每噸1000令吉時，砂拉越要支付銷售與服務稅，當原棕油價格高於每噸1500令吉時，砂拉越支付最高5%的銷售與服務稅。

“征收原棕油的現行門檻是於1998年生產成本較低時所設定，據本會展開的調查顯示，從2014年到2019年，生產成本介乎每噸2000至2300令吉之間，惟最近投入的成本較高，許多公司報告生產成本接近每噸2500令吉。我認為2000令吉的新門檻更能反映目前的行業格局，我們早前已將修改現有門檻的建議提交砂總署，也感謝他予以考慮。對此，莫哈末阿布巴卡同意將此事轉交州財政司秘書進一步研究。”

此外，邱冠森指出，砂近44%的油棕種在泥炭土，而泥炭土很容易被洪水淹沒，最重要的是與礦質土壤相比，管理成本更高。泥炭油棕園還容易受到許多其他問題的影響，例如病蟲害發生率高、新鮮水果產量低、榨油率低等。

“莫哈末阿布巴卡同意應該進行更多的研發來提高砂拉越油棕的生產力和可持續性，因為該作物對砂拉越的經濟有重大貢獻，砂拉越也有很多優秀的學習和研究機構可供棕油的研發。他也同意未來將有更多的工業參與，並強調政府部門有責任在能力範圍內為私營部門提供便利。另外，他也歡迎本會建議在砂拉越設立一家棕油代理機構，專注於棕油產業的發展。”

生產成本激增 砂棕油稅門檻或調整

(本报古晋21日讯) 隨著生產成本急劇增加，砂拉越政府將研究將原棕油的州銷售稅從目前的1000令吉門檻修訂至2000令吉的可行性。

根據砂拉越油棕種植業者協會 (SOPPOA) 首席执行官毛維浩博士今日發表的一份聲明，棕桐油的高稅率在47%至52%之間。

當原棕油達到每噸1000令吉時，該行業支付州銷售稅；當原棕油價格高於每噸1500令吉時，該行業將支付最高5%的州銷售稅。徵收原棕油的現行門檻是在1998年生產成本較低時設定的。

上周五 (2022年8月19日)，砂拉越油棕種植業者協會主席邱冠森率領代表團禮節性拜訪州務秘書拿督斯里莫哈末阿布巴卡時，轉達了這個問題。

在會議期間，邱冠森告知莫哈末阿布巴卡，砂拉越油棕

種植業者協會進行的一項調查顯示，從2014年到2019年，生產成本在每噸2000令吉至2300令吉之間。

他說，最近由於投入成本較高，許多公司報告生產成本接近每噸2500令吉。因此，2000令吉的新門檻更能反映目前的行業格局。

邱冠森還表示，修改現有門檻的建議已於今年早些時候引起砂拉越總理拿督巴丁宜丹

斯里阿邦佐哈里的注意，並感謝他考慮此建議。

之後，莫哈末阿布巴卡同意將此事轉交給州財政司進一步研究。

與此同時，莫哈末阿布巴卡對砂拉越油棕種植業者協會的想法表示歡迎，即在砂拉越設立一家棕桐油機構，專注於砂拉越棕桐油行業的發展。

泥炭土管理成本更高

砂拉越油棕種植業者協會透露，砂拉越近44%的油棕種植在泥炭土上，泥炭土很容易被洪水淹沒。最重要的是，與礦質土壤相比，管理成本更高。

“泥炭油棕園還容易受到許多其他問題的影響，例如病虫害高發、鮮果產量低和棕油提取率低等。”

“因此，莫哈末阿布巴卡同意應該進行更多的研究和開發，以提高砂拉越油棕的生產力和可持續性，因為這種作物對砂拉越經濟做出了重大貢獻。”

“他還強調，國家有很多優秀的學習和研究機構可以專門從事棕桐油的研發。”

文中強調：“他已同意未來有更多的行業參與，並強調政府部門有責任在其能力範圍內為私人界提供便利。”



砂拉越油棕種植業者協會主席邱冠森 (左4) 率領代表團禮節性拜訪州務秘書拿督斯里莫哈末阿布巴卡 (右4) 時攝。左1為毛維浩博士。

Industri kelapa sawit Sarawak masih gawat: SOPPOA

la ekoran pelbagai cabaran dihadapi serta memerlukan sokongan daripada kerajaan dari semasa ke semasa

KUCHING: Industri kelapa sawit Sarawak masih gawat ekoran pelbagai cabaran yang dihadapi serta memerlukan sokongan daripada kerajaan dari semasa ke semasa.

Pengerusi Persatuan Pemilik Ladang Kelapa Sawit Sarawak (SOPPOA) Eric Kiu berkata demikian dalam satu kenyataan selepas mengadakan pertemuan dengan Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak Dato Sri Abu Bakar Marzuki baru-baru ini.

“Tujuan pertemuan itu adalah untuk berkongsi beberapa perkembangan dan cabaran minyak sawit Sarawak selain memperkenalkan ahli SOPPOA,” katanya.

Eric turut berkongsi bahawa Sarawak mempunyai 1.61 juta hektar ladang kelapa sawit dan 84 kilang kelapa sawit dan pada tahun lalu ia mengeluarkan 3.90 juta tan minyak sawit mentah (MSM).

Pada 2021, dengan harga MSM yang menggalakkan, industri minyak sawit Sarawak berjaya mencapai sejumlah

besar hasil cukai untuk negara melalui MPOB Cess (RM62.5 juta), Windfall Profit Levy (RM394 juta), Cukai Jualan Negeri (RM1.0 bilion), Cukai Eksport (RM1.5 bilion) sebagai tambahan kepada cukai korporat (20-28 peratus).

Tatkala itu, pihaknya juga masih menghadapi masalah sumber manusia kerana ketibaan pekerja Indonesia yang perlahan menyukarkan kerja penanaman kelapa sawit.

Beliau bagaimanapun menegaskan bahawa SOPPOA menghormati keputusan kabinet negeri yang tidak membenarkan warga Bangladesh bekerja di ladang-ladang di seluruh negeri buat masa ini.

Tetapi menerima pakai cadangan untuk melihat kesesuaian orang Timor untuk bekerja di ladang kerana dari segi budayanya mempunyai persamaan dengan negara Indonesia.

Baru-baru ini, minyak sawit turut dikenakan cukai yang tinggi antara 47 hingga 52 peratus.



MESRA: Kiu (empat kiri) melakukan kunjungan hormat ke pejabat Abu Bakar (empat kanan) di Wisma Bapa Malaysia pada 19 Ogos lepas. Turut hadir (dari kiri) Dr Felix Moh, Jack Merudu, Shannon Yil, Roger Lal, Alexi Lawrence Marcel Wan Ullok dan Edwin Ha.

Sarawak membayar Cukai Jualan Negeri (SST) apabila harga minyak sawit mentah (CPO) mencecah RM1,000 satu tan dan had maksimum 5 peratus apabila harga MSM melebihi RM1,500 satu tan. Amahang sedia ada untuk memenakan MSM telah

ditetapkan pada 1998 apabila kos pengeluaran lebih rendah.

Satu tinjauan yang dijalankan oleh SOPPOA menunjukkan kos pengeluaran antara RM2,000 dan RM2,300 satu tan dari 2014 hingga 2019.

“Baru-baru ini, disebabkan kos input yang lebih tinggi, banyak syarikat melaporkan kos pengeluaran ditutup kepada RM2,500 satu tan,” ujarnya.

Oleh itu, beliau berpendapat bahawa baharu pada RM2,000 lebih mencerminkan keadaan

“Tujuan pertemuan itu adalah untuk berkongsi beberapa perkembangan dan cabaran minyak sawit Sarawak selain memperkenalkan ahli SOPPOA.”

Eric Kiu
Pengerusi SOPPOA

industri semasa.

Kiu memaklumkan bahawa cadangan untuk menyekam semula ambang sedia ada telah dibawa kepada perbincangan Perdana Menteri awal tahun ini dan mengocapkan terima kasih atas pertimbangan beliau.

Dato Sri Abu Bakar juga menyatakan persetujuan untuk memajukan perkara itu kepada Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri bagi kajian lanjut, tegas beliau.

Hasil perbincangan kedua-dua pihak juga membawa kepada penghasilan R&D bagi meningkatkan produktiviti dan kemampanan kelapa sawit di Sarawak kerana tanaman ini menyumbang dengan ketara kepada ekonomi negeri.

Lantas melakukan idea SOPPOA untuk mempunyai sebuah agensi minyak sawit yang berpangkalan di Sarawak bagi memberi tumpuan kepada pembangunan industri sawit di sini.

“Hampir 44 peratus daripada kelapa sawit ditanam di atas tanah gambut di Sarawak yang terdedah kepada banjir termasuk serangga perusak.

“Selain itu, ia lebih mahal untuk menguruskan berbanding tanah estet dan memperoleh hasil minyak yang lebih rendah,” tegasnya.

Turut hadir Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif SOPPOA Dr Felix Moh, Mee Ho dan Pengarah Buruh, Inigresen dan Pemantauan Projek Sarawak Jack Merudu Kiu.

FORUM ON FOOD ANALYST/CHEMIST REQUIREMENT IN PALM OIL MILL ON 24 AUGUST 22

This forum was organized by MPOB based on hybrid mode.

In his opening remarks, Datuk Dr. Parveez, Director General of MPOB, informed that the Food Analyst Act 2011 & Food Regulation 2013 have been implemented since May 2014. These Acts have been legislated for more than 8 years involving all food premises, across food sectors and manufacturers.

The oil palm industry in Malaysia has been established for more than 100 years whereby palm oil mill was not considered as food premises at the beginning. Palm oil mill only considers as food premises few years back as it is used to produce raw material for food products. It is important to note that any premise used to produce ingredient for food is subjected to these Acts despite there is discussion that palm oil is not 100% used for food ie. biodiesel or other non-food chemical products.



The rationale behind this initiative is to ensure that the crude palm oil uses for various food applications comply with the safety and quality standards.

Currently most of the analytical tests at palm oil mill only cover basic parameters following PORAM specifications mainly involving FFA, DOBI, M&I and color. This routine exercise mostly carries out by technicians who are undeniable experts of the analyses. In most cases the manager will endorse the test results. As such there is no necessity to designate a chemist at the mill. Another word, there is no chemist employed in most of the palm oil mill.

Datuk Dr. Parveez hopes that MOH would enlighten the palm oil millers on how to address this issue so that the industry complies with the requirement. In order to showcase that palm oil mill is very serious about food safety and quality, having qualified chemist to certify analytical result is the best way to move forward.

Unfortunately, not all of the palm oil mills are able to search for suitable chemist for employment. Moreover, majority of them are not willing to work in palm oil mill as the nature of mills are located in rural areas and mostly in oil palm estate far away from town.

On that note, this forum is the best platform to discuss this matter (chemist) harmoniously to find an effective and efficient strategy to achieve the goal.

Datuk DG further informed that oil palm industry is the most regulated sector in Malaysia - having 35 different licenses from producing seeds all the way to exporting plus around 60 other laws and regulations-in order to conform both domestic and international standards. To allocate our commitment in embracing food safety and quality standards, MPOB together with MPIC, MPOC and MPOCC as well as the MOH has reached a consensus to incorporate food safety compliance to the MSPO certification. On this note, the Code of Good Practices for Mill (COPM) has been sentenced and coinciding with the MeSTI elements as defined in the Food Hygiene Regulation 2009 and Food Act 1983. Aside of the incorporation of code of practice for the reduction of 3MCPDE and GE in refined oil and products especially for infant formulators. COPM acts a mandatory compliance of MSPO states it very that palm oil mills are not necessary to apply for separate MeSTI certification if they comply with MSPO requirements.

► From..09

He enlightened that the revision of COPM involved the concerted efforts between MPOB and relevant palm oil mill associations. The document is published and available for industry's reference.

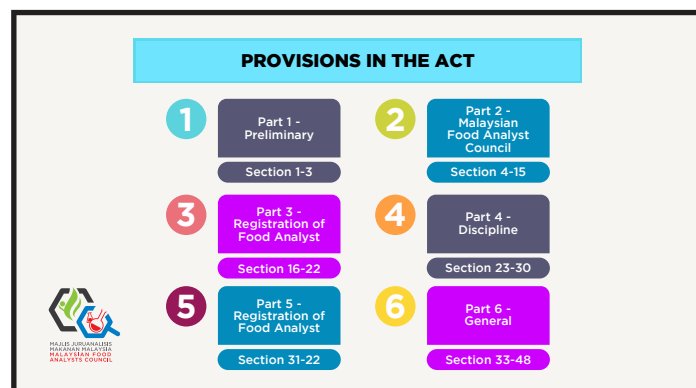
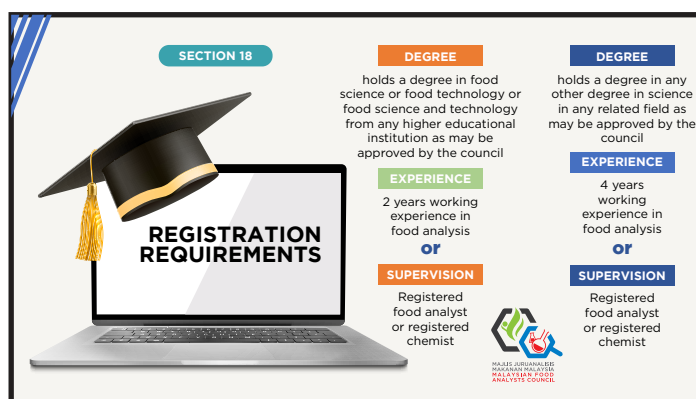
As a custodian of palm oil industry, the best wishes for MPOB is to find a win-win situation and to find a best way to assist the industry. In return, MPOB needs commitment and support from the industry as well as to work together for best solution so that the requirement for the MOH can be fulfilled at the same time secure the quality of palm oil.

Key Paper – Food Analyst Requirement in Palm Oil Mill

Pn. Zailina Abdul Majid of MOH started by stressing the importance of the food analysis report or the food analysis certificate issued, whether issued by government agency, institution or food industry, the food testing is the one most crucial step in the food manufacturing process and it indicates the confirmation of safety and quality of the use of that food. Therefore, it must be assured that the result is accurate and reliable. In order to achieve this, it must be issued by a competent person.

The Food Analysts Act 2011 is to ensure that all food analysis reports are issued by the competent food analysts in this country. This Act will control the practice of the competent and credible food analysts. This will increase the credibility of the food analysis certificate issued by the qualified, competent and registered food analysts.

The Food Analysts Act was gazetted on June 2011 and came into force March 2014. Under this Act, the provisions consist of the establishment of the Malaysian Food Analysts Council, the registration of person practicing as food analysts and also the regulating the practice of food analysts. It also comes with Food Analysts Regulation 2013.



The detail of this Act is downloadable from www.moh.gov.my

Discussion Section

The 2 invited panelists were Mr. Joseph Tek of MPOA and Dr. David Lim of POMA.

Joseph Tek pointed out that the presentation by MEOA has taken a step back to ask the fundamental question whether crude palm oil is 'food' and whether palm oil mill is a 'food premise'. In reference to what Datuk DG definition that crude palm oil is food because it is considered a food ingredient. He cautioned that there must be room to relook at the definition through industry engagement to reach a consensus.

He also pointed out that in Pn. Zailini's presentation there are 2 exclusion clauses that the minister can advocate for any person who wishes to apply to be food analyst but does not meet the normal requirements.

He explained that there are inherent differences between palm oil mill, kernel crushing plant and refinery which normally mistakenly lumped together. He would not argue that palm olein is food whereby palm kernel crushing plant must comply with HACCP. In contrast, palm oil mill falls in a grey area whereby crude palm oil needs further clarification. By enacting food regulation, it appears that it does clearly define crude palm oil as food.

► Cont..11



► From..10

Pn. Zailini emphasized that MOH has not come to any conclusion or decision in relation to the discussion in this forum. The purpose of this forum was to obtain finding so that MOH could find ways to manage the concerns raised by the industry. She further emphasized that her food safety and quality division is basically implementor and any interpretation of the act is based on their legal advisor. However, the implementation of Food Analysts Act purely because it is related to the Food Act.

She explained that despite the Food Regulation Act was in existed since 1985, it was only enforced now for a reason that most acts are enforced progressively so that improvement can be carried out.

Dr. David Lim concurred with Mr. Joseph Tek that crude palm oil cannot be classified as food yet. Under Food Act 1983 (Para 197) defined that neutralized, bleached and deodorized palm oil is likely refers to red palm oil which is sell for direct consumption. In this sense, he agreed that red palm oil is food. However, he explained that palm oil mill does not buy or mix ingredient to make crude palm oil. Palm oil mill mainly is to extract oil from fresh fruit bunches from estate through few processes like sterilization to pressing. The end quality of crude palm oil is dependence on the in coming quality of fresh fruit bunches.

He explained that all the analyses done in palm oil mill was to make sure the crude palm oil produced is within the specification of the contract. The analysis results are not for refinery (or third party) but own record. This is because the refinery will conduct own analysis to ensure that the consignment is within their specification. However, should there be any dispute on the quality, both palm oil mill and refinery will engage 3rd party laboratory for confirmation of the quality of the consignment.

He also cautioned that any additional certification ie MeSTI will incur extra operating cost which is bound to be passed to the estates or smallholders. Moreover, certification like MeSTI is local based which is not required in other producing countries like Indonesia or to an extend not require by international buyers.

Dr. David made it clear that the industry is not against MeSTI or compromise food safety per se but enquired whether there is any other method that the government can assist this industry.

Pn. Zailini clarified that MOH provide free consultation to industry for MeSTI.

Mr. Gan cautioned that should crude palm oil is clasified as food, the certification may not just stop at MeSTI, the millers may need to adopt ISO, Codex and others as well. In this respect, there will be quite a lot of things to do that do not contribute to food safety and quality issues, and may not really improve the supply chain.

Other participants also worried that the enforcement may result in higher cost of operation. For example, once the crude palm oil is defined as food, there is high chance that the materials currently used in palm oil mill which are mild steel have to be upgraded to stainless steel. In addition, the inputs materials in the estate may need to be food-graded in order to achieve compliance. Again, these increased in cost of operation may further reduce the competitiveness of Malaysian palm oil eventually.

Summary

Datuk Dr. Parveez rounded up by admitting that there was no immediate outcome from the meeting. However, he took notes on several concerns raised by the members and agreed that there was a need for further discussion. He suggested that:

1. The requirement of food analyst in palm oil mill is not finalized yet.
2. Engagement in the future should consist of smaller group with representative from industry and association.
3. There is need to relook from the legal aspect in respect to the argument on whether crude palm oil is food or not.
4. He warned that whether food or non-food, the interpretation must be dealt carefully.

VISIT BY POTENTIAL INVESTORS FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA - HYUNDAI OILBANK AND OCI KOREA ORGANIZED BY MIDA SARAWAK ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2022

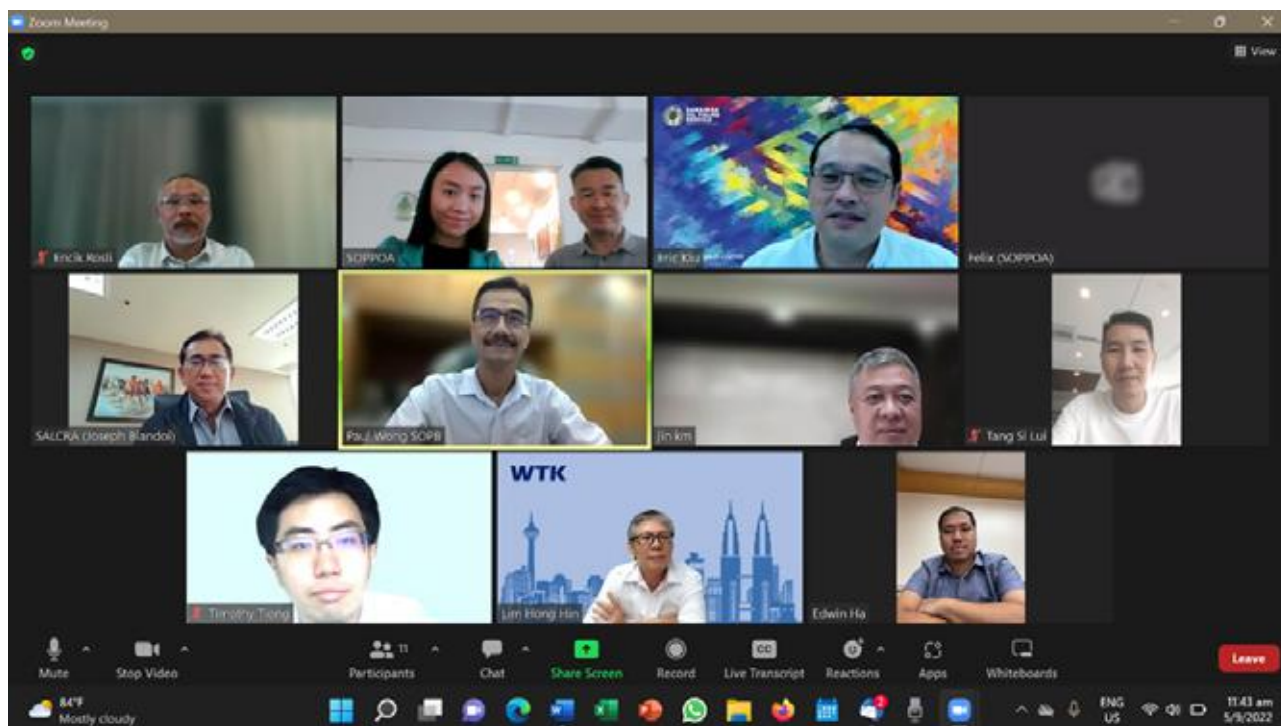


OCI produces a wide range of chemicals, petrochemicals and carbon materials worldwide. They produce polycrystalline silicon which is the core material for the manufacture of silicon wafers and photovoltaic cells at Bintulu. OCI is going forward to be a global leading green energy company.

Based on the meeting organized by the Malaysian investment Development Authority (MIDA) Sarawak, OCI partnership with Hyundai Oilbank is planning to invest USD200 mil in Bintulu for biodiesel facility.

OCI representatives from Korea have called on MPOB and SOPPOA to discuss on the potential and viability of sourcing local sludge oil and used cooking oil as feedstocks to their plant.

53RD COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2022



In his opening remarks, Mr. Chairman thanked the council members for taking their time off for the meeting. He said despite the industry was experiencing better crop production but overall market-wise was still challenging as there are many macro-factors that affecting the CPO prices.

He grateful the State government has been helpful in many ways but due to the restriction originated from the source country, the arrival of Indonesian workers remained slow. He anticipated that the government will further streamline the recruitment process to cut red tape and shorten the processing times.

Chairman urged the members to continue work together to uplift the good name of SOPPOA.

On behalf of the Treasurer, Mr. Tang reported that the total current fund was RM1,180,209 against total liabilities of RM46,450. The total income received as of Jul 22 was RM757,668.

Secretary report showed that 4 webinars were organized for the members from Apr to Aug 22 that covered Smoke Emission System for POM, labor issues, HRD Corp Funds, and CPO Price Outlook.

Secretariat also arranged several meetings with the State and Federal officials to discussed the impact of labor shortage to the industry, over excessive taxes on palm oil, and the lack of R&D especially for peat soil estates. Following the meetings, SOPPOA was not short of making proposals to tackle to tackle those issues.

For the proposed Budget 2023, the total income expected from members is RM836,000. The allocation for the office operation is RM396,222 comparable to the previous 2 years. On top of that, RM400,000 of the access fund would be reserved for SOPPOA's activities, conservation, education and R&D programs if opportunity arises.

Mr. Chairman recorded his appreciation and thank to all the members who have financially contributed to SOPPOA and other organizations for various activities that benefiting the palm oil industry.

Lastly, secretariat also requested the permission to issue the Membership Subscription 2023 by November so that members would have sufficient time to meet the due date for the AGM in March 2023.

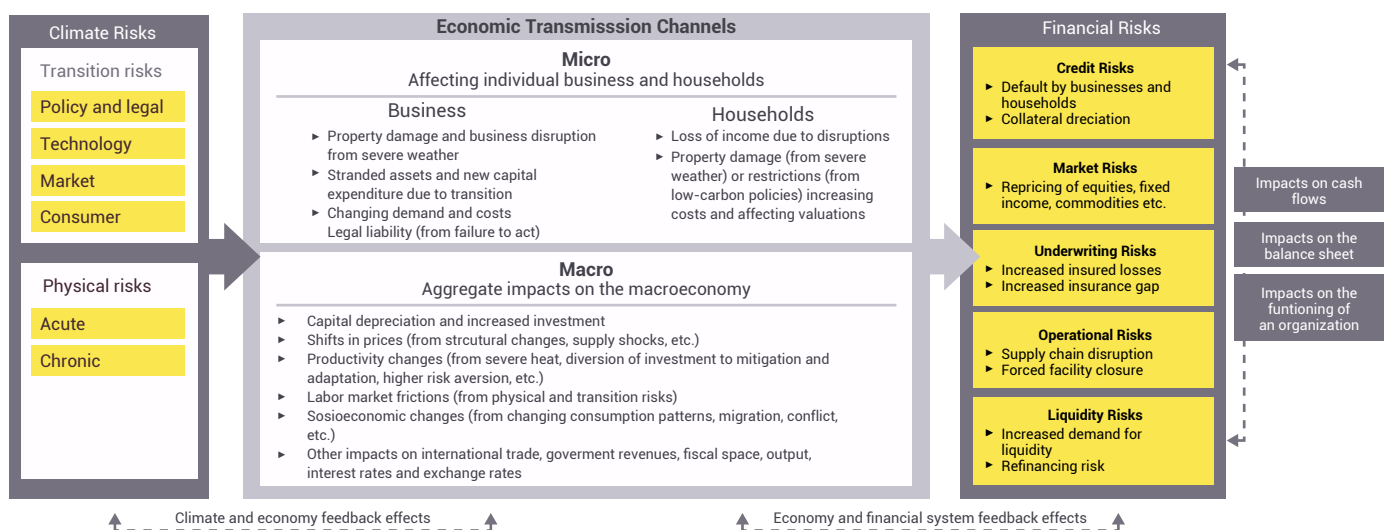
FINANCED EMISSIONS : WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW ARE THEY MEASURED ORGANIZED BY MAYBANK ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

The invited speaker, Arina Kok, is a Partner in the Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) practice of Ernst & Young Consulting Sdn Bhd. She has years of experience providing various types of assurance and business advisory services to multinational companies. She focuses on integrated sustainability reporting and the incorporation of Environment, Social Governance (ESG) factors into financial decision-making.

In general, financed emissions are indirect emissions related to loans, underwriting, investments, and any other financial services.

Financed emissions are a necessary input for climate scenario analysis – a key metric to understand and manage climate-related transition risks and opportunities. It is believed that financed emissions account for over 700 times more than direct emissions of financial institutions overall GHG inventory.

Financed emission performance is an important metric to assess climate-related risks and opportunities. For example, the implementation of carbon tax will have an impact on the customer's financial performance, and therefore, potentially change their risk profile, which leads to increased credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk for the foreign investors.



Financial institutions can adopt the Partnership For Carbon Accounting Financial (PCAF) Global GHG Accounting and Reporting Standard in order for assessing the financed emission. The PCAF is an initiative led by the financial industry to develop a harmonized global standard to measure and disclose the GHG of loans and investments. The GHG accounting enable financial institutions to disclose these emissions at a fixed-point time in line with the financial accounting period.

The PCAF's standard also provides detailed methodological guidance for asset classes which has widely tested by banks and investors that associated by six asset classes namely listed equity, business loans, project finance, commercial real estate, mortgage and motor vehicle loans.

Most importantly, the financial institutions can leverage on the PCAF standards and GHG accounting to meet multiple business goals.

► From..14

1

Create transparency for stakeholders

Carrying out an assessment of financed emissions allows a financial institution's board member and senior management to get a better picture of their organization's impact on the climate and how to steer activities toward the Paris Agreement goals, Measuring and disclosing financed emissions, and thereby creating opportunities for climate disclosure, financial institutions can internally align on their role, as well as the financial sector's responsibility as a whole, in the transition to a net-zero economy

2

Manage climate-related transition risk

GHG accounting help institutions screen and identify areas of lending and investment activities that fall under carbon-intensive assets. Such lending and investment activities could suffer setback due to introduction of carbon prices and anti-fossil fuels policies and regulations. These information can then be used as the basis to assess climate risk scenarios.

Measuring and disclosing financed emissions according to PCAF and reporting according to TCFD is a way for financial institutions to manage climate-related reputational risk.

3

Develop climate-friendly financial products

With the transitions to a low-carbon economy, financial institutions can develop innovative products and services that enable their clients to decarbonize their business activities.

By measuring financed emissions and using intensity metrics, financial institutions can see which sectors and business require the most help in their decarbonization efforts and how to best support them in their transition to a net-zero future.

4

Align financial flows with the Paris Agreement

Financial institutions implement portfolio GHG accounting to understand the absolute emissions they finance in the real economy and use this information as basis for analyzing decarbonization scenarios and setting emissions-based targets at the asset class or sector level.

PCAF has been established to focus solely on GHG accounting of financial portfolio. By undertaking GHG accounting, financial institutions are equipped with a metrics that can help track absolute emissions year over year and make a comparison with their financed emissions goals.

PROGRAM SESI PENERANGAN DAN DIALOG GUNA TENAGA DI SEKTOR PERLADANGAN SAWIT SIRI 4/2022 DI BINTULU ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

BINTULU: Palm oil industry players must be united to defend themselves against baseless accusations from foreign countries over the country's palm oil industry.

Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Willie Mongin said while the palm oil industry has been plagued by various accusations, the industry players themselves must continue to play their role to deny the accusations.

"Basically this is a commercial bully but we have to be very strong," he said during a briefing and dialogue on manpower in the palm oil plantation sector here yesterday.

He said the country's palm oil industry has been accused for not maintaining the forest properly, followed by forced labour and child labour accusations.

Willie said Malaysia had introduced a palm oil cultivation limit of 6.5 million hectares, and so far only 5.8 million hectares had planted.

He said the country also introduced the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification scheme, which is strictly audited to protect the forest.

"European countries have said that we do not take care of our forests sustainably."
"How can countries that don't even have a forest teach us how to take care of our forest?"

"If you go to any European countries, some of them don't even have a forest. How can they tell us to maintain and take care of our forest," he asked.

On the second accusation of using forced labour, Willie said in Malaysia it is normal for these people to live and work in estates, which is not forced labour.

He said even though the employer holds the passport of the foreign workers, they were also accused of being forced to work.

"In Malaysia, it has become normal for families, especially small-scale farmers, when their children are on school leave, they help their parents in the fields to pick fruits and others. That is also seen as using child labour.

"The truth is, it is not true," said Willie.

He added these countries would not stop attacking Malaysia's palm oil industry because Malaysia is one of the producers of cooking oil or vegetable oil, which is a threat to their products such as soy oil, sunflower oil and others.

He said Malaysia was also accused of producing non-healthy palm oil for cooking.

"But when we hired food scientists to do the study, the study revealed that palm oil is healthier than any other vegetable oils.

"Then they shift the accusations to unsustainable forest in our country and they shift the goal posts to another one which is forced labour and child labour.

"How are we going to comply with recommendations and requests of the world standards if the goal posts are changed.



SOPPOA co-hosted the event with MPIC

Tangkis tohmahan terhadap industri sawit

Dikah Khong Ismail Khong Sa'ed

BINTULU: Tidak berlaku amalan buruh paksa dan buruh kanak-kanak mahupun kemusnahan hutan dalam sektor perladangan sawit di negara ini seperti tuduhan pihak tertentu dari negara-negara luar.

Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi Datuk Willie Mongin berkata, banyak tohmahan negara luar yang memburukkan industri sawit negara, kononnya Malaysia tidak mengamalkan kelestarian hutan.

Malah katanya, ada negara-negara yang tidak mempunyai hutan cuba mengajir Malaysia cara mengurus hutan serta amalan perburuan.

"Sebenarnya di negara kita sudah lumrah mereka yang bekerja di ladang duduk (mendiami) kawasan ladang. Itu bukan buruh paksa, meskipun majikan memegang pasport pekerja asing mereka," ujarnya ketika merasmikan Program Sesi Penerangan dan Dialog Guna Tenaga Sektor Perladangan Sawit Siri 2/2022 di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama Timbalan Menteri Permodenan Pertanian dan Pembangunan Wilayah Martin Ben, Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Perancangan Strategik dan Pengurusan) Kementerian Perusahaan Perladangan dan Komoditi (KPPK) Abdul Hadi Omar, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Persatuan Pemilik-Pemilik Ladang Kelapa Sarawak (SAPPOA) Dr Felix Moh dan Setiausaha Bahagian Penggalakan Inovasi dan Modal Insan Industri (PMI) KPPK Syahraz Akhtar Mat Ali.

Willie berkata, ada juga pihak yang menuduh industri sawit negara menggunakan buruh kanak-kanak, walaupun perkara sebenarnya ialah anak-anak sekadar membantu ibu bapa mereka yang juga pekebun kecil mengutip buah sawit.

"Kita juga memperkenalkan Minyak



UNTUK ALBUM: Willie (dua kiri), Martin (kiri) merakamkan kenangan bersama tetamu dan pemain industri sawit pada Program Sesi Penerangan dan Dialog Guna Tenaga Sektor Perladangan Sawit Siri 2/2022 di Bintulu, semalam.

●Tiada amalan buruh paksa, buruh kanak-kanak mahupun kemusnahan hutan dalam sektor perladangan sawit di negara ini: Willie

Sawit Lestari Malaysia (MSPO) yang diaudit dengan begitu teliti dan tegas kepada produk-produk seperti minyak soya, minyak bunga matahari dan sebagainya.

Dalam dua perkara itu katanya, Malaysia sebenarnya memperkenalkan had penanaman sawit sebanyak 6.5 juta hektar dan setakat ini, hanya 5.8 juta hektar telah ditanam.

Justeru, Willie berharap pemain industri memainkan peranan menangkis tohmahan sedemikian kerana pihak terbabit tidak akan berhenti menyerang memandangkan

Malaysia adalah pengeluar minyak masak yang menjadi ancaman kepada produk-produk seperti minyak soya, minyak bunga matahari dan sebagainya.

"Minyak sawit kita juga pernah dituduh sebagai tidak sihat dan memberi kesan tidak baik kepada kesihatan tetapi apabila kajian dilakukan, saintis mendedahkan minyak sawit kita lebih sihat berbanding minyak-minyak masak lain," katanya sambil menambah, minyak sawit mengandungi karoten

yang lebih baik dengan vitamin A, B dan E.

Menurutnya, usaha menepati piawaian dunia pasti sukar dicapai sekiranya 'tiang gol' diubah-ubah mengikut selera penyangak komersial yang perlu dihadapi dengan tabah.

Beliau yakin kerajaan melalui kementerian mengambil pelbagai inisiatif bagi memantau, mencegah buruh paksa dan terus komited menghapuskan buruh paksa termasuk buruh kanak-kanak melalui ratifikasi Konvensyen Asas Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa (ILO) No.29 Buruh Paksa dan No.182 Worst Form of Child Labour.

"Ini sedikit sebanyak menyatakan komitmen kita di peringkat kementerian untuk memantapkan industri ini dan komited bekerjasama dengan kerajaan negeri untuk bersama menggilap industri ini supaya berjaya dan mencapai tahap yang dibanggakan," katanya.

威利：防止強迫勞動 政府積極採取措施

(本報民都魯7日訊) 聯邦種植與原產業部第二副部長拿督威利莫因表示，政府積極採取各種舉措，進行監測和防止強迫勞動。

當中包括落實國際勞工組織第29條，第182條（最惡劣的童工形式）基本公約，繼續致力於消除包括兒童在內的強迫勞動。

他今早在億信利大酒店召開新聞發布會上，如是指出。

尋求勞資雙贏

他稱，早在民都魯舉行的油棕業員工運用對話會，有助解決強迫勞動行為的指控，尋求雙贏。

他敘述，對話及說明會內容豐富，分別由反販賣人口理事會舉行的關於強迫勞動和兒童問題，以及落實油棕種植業最佳勞工的信息。馬來西亞移民局、人力部、馬來西亞棕櫚油局、馬來西亞種植園和商品研究所和蠟燭基金會的分享等。

他表示，該活動旨在為管

理人員和農場工人，提供有關僱主和農場工人的權利和責任、人口販運問題、勞工最佳實踐、就業和農場機械化等方面的信息和諮詢服務，以及執法及安全事項。

他相信，該部可以繼續組織與行業參與者的會議，以反駁某些聲稱馬來西亞在種植園部門，實行強迫勞動和童工的各方的看法和指控。



▲新聞發布會進行中。左2為聯邦種植與原產業部第二副部長拿督威利莫因。

▼出席場面。



油棕業勞工匱乏導致 5個月損失逾104億

(本報民都魯7日訊) 聯邦種植與原產業部第二副部長拿督威利莫因透露，2022年1月至5月期間，油棕種植業勞工平均短缺5萬4190人，其中53.4%，即2萬8940人屬採伐類勞工。

他感嘆，勞工匱乏迫使油棕業承受首3個月內104億8000萬令吉的巨大損失，涉及752萬公噸棕櫚果無法採集。

他今早出席油棕業員工運用對話及說明會上致詞時說，

該活動，主要讓棕櫚業獲取最新信息和发展資訊，特別是涉及外國勞工的就業問題。

同時，也是為了提供管理層信息和諮詢服務，包括農民工權利、僱主和農場工人的責任、人口販運、就業和農業機械化等。

油棕業外勞佔75%

他表示，油棕種植業很大

程度上取決於外國勞動力，為總就業人數的75%。

長遠來看，政府意識到持續依賴外國勞工或影響油棕種植業，因此，他強調，政府鼓勵業者提高農場機械使用率及機械化種植，解決勞動力短缺問題。

而油棕機械化與自動化研究機構(MARCOP)的成立，有望改進農業機械的技術和應用，優化營運和採果效率。

POST COVID DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PCDS) 2030 MIRROR FOCUS GROUP MEETING CALLED BY SBF ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022



PCDS 2030 is a long-term plan that provides the direction and strategies for Sarawak to achieve its aspiration of a developed State by 2030.

The plan aims to double the size of Sarawak economy from RM136 billion in 2019 to RM282 billion in 2030.

According to the Premier, to achieve this target, Sarawak economy needs to grow on average 8.0% per annum until 2030. Sarawak government needs to undertake massive infrastructure development to facilitate economic and investment activities. To do this, Sarawak government are using creative financial modelling through revenue reengineering and alternative funding methods to ensure healthy fiscal position.

This plan also provides equal opportunities to all Sarawakians to participate in the State's overall development and enjoy equitable distribution of wealth through jobs and business opportunities.

In response to this, SBF has called on its members to discuss about forming a mirror organization to supplement the PCDS 2030.

According to SBF's President, Datuk Abg Karim, PCSD 2030 is basically a 10-year master plan or roadmap for social economy of the State. He suggested that the private sectors as the engine of growth should also play some roles to complement the PCDS 2030.

As such, the proposed mirror organization should be able to react and respond to government strategy. At the same time, such a mirror group would provide opportunity to get all associate members organized and move forward.

This mirror organization is to be placed under SBF that representing around 80% of the private sectors and business communities.

The mirror organization will consist of 10 groups take focus on each economic sector and enablers of the plan.

The Plan will anchor on 6 Economic Sectors and 7 enablers



The PCDS 2030 is anchored on 6 economic sectors as the main engines of growth, namely Manufacturing, Commercial Agriculture, Tourism, Forestry, Mining and Social Services.

The 6 economic sectors will be supported by 7 enablers namely Digital Transformation, Innovation, Basic Infrastructure, Transport, Utilities, Renewable Energy and Education and Human Capital Development.

The group will form its own committee to set up the Term of Reference for their respective group.

It is hopeful that through this channel, the private sectors would be able to submit their views and approaches in helping the government to achieve the plan or to the extend that to inform the government on the practicality of some of the frameworks.

AsiaFlux 2022

ON 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2022

AsianFlux is a science community with a mission to 'bring Asia's key ecosystems under observation of life on earth'.

The purpose of AsiaFlux is to develop collaborative research and data set on the cycles of carbon, water, and energy in key Asian ecosystems. It also aims to provide workshops and training on current and related global climate change science and technology.

Finally, AsiaFlux seeks to cultivate the next generation of scientists with skills and perspectives to address global climate change as informed leaders and stewards.

For the first time the AsiaFlux 2022 Conference was held in Kuching this year from 20-22 September.

The theme of the conference is "The Nexus of Land Use Change, Ecosystems & Climate: A Path Towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

The conference was jointly organized by Malaysian Peat Society (MPS), Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute (TROPI) and AsiaFlux Science Steering Committee, in collaboration with National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan; Hokkaido University, Japan, Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), and supported by Sarawak Convention Bureau.

SOPPOA was the Lead Partner Sponsor and contributed RM100,000.00 to the conference.



More than 250 delegates from Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Hong Kong, Mongolia, China and USA participated in the conference.

The Organizing Chair informed that more than 100 presentations across both oral and poster formats were delivered over six sub-themes namely 1) Ecosystem Dynamics, 2) Environmental Variability & Climate Change, 3) Land Use Change, 4) Communicating Science to Society, 5) FLUXNET Methane, and 6) New Instrumentation, Products and Tools.

She said the conference also created a platform to raise awareness among government, industry stakeholders and the general public, on the importance of greenhouse gas cycling in determining regional sustainable land use policy and its global implications.

The participants of the conference also given a chance to visit and climb up Sarawak's 40-meter Eddy Covariance Tower during a tropical peat swamp excursion in Maludam National Park.

The tower commonly calls Flux tower is a micrometeorological tower site that use eddy covariance methods to measure the exchanges of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and energy between the biosphere and atmosphere. Each Flux tower has multiple measurement levels outfitted with suites of sensors.

Sarawak is the only state in Malaysia which has three Flux towers that have been operational for more than 10 years. These Flux towers are strategically located at Naman Oil Palm Plantation in Sibul, Cemat Ceria Plantation in Betong and Maludam National Park in Betong.

Malaysian Palm Oil Response To U.S. State Department Labor Rights Assertions

This is the first blog in a four-part series that assess the claims made by three U.S. government agencies against Malaysian palm oil on labour issues.

- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. State Department
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection

These blogs summarize a lengthy rebuttal to these claims published by MPOC.

Background and Context

The Malaysian palm oil sector has come under considerable scrutiny in the global debate on labour. This has resulted in some disruptions to the sector, with the seizure of several shipments of palm oil products from Malaysia to the United States by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The scrutiny on Malaysian labour is not entirely surprising. Allegations of the mistreatment of workers, particularly in the manufacturing sector, have been reported and acted upon by companies and authorities over several years. This is a genuine concern.

- Distinction is Key: However, it is important to make a distinction between close scrutiny backed by evidence, and broad-brush allegations. The Malaysian palm oil sector has largely been subjected to the latter.

There has been a broad movement, largely backed by environmental campaigners, to undermine palm oil in any way possible. This has included allegations of widespread labour/human rights abuse and trafficking in the industry.

This effort has resulted in large volumes of material being circulated by NGOs and other opponents of palm oil, with very little strong evidence behind it.

- The Net Result: More than ten years of allegations against Malaysian palm oil has led to a broad narrative about palm oil and labour that is weak on substance, but has not been adequately refuted.

This narrative has been taken very seriously by a number of U.S. authorities and has resulted in trade disruptions between Malaysia and the U.S.

New State Department TIP Report: Cherry-Picks Data; Highly Misleading

Every year the State Department releases a report known as the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP). The latest version was released by Secretary of State Antony Blinken on 19th July 2022. The TIP report doesn't analyze sectors and products. Rather, it assesses how different countries – specifically governments – are performing in terms of their responses to human trafficking. The TIP report places countries in 'Tiers' indicating the adequacy of their responses, from Tier 1 (best) to Tier 3 (worse).

The placement of countries is at times surprising:

- Philippines sits alongside the Netherlands in Tier 1
- Norway and Denmark are on the same footing in Tier 2
- Malaysia sits alongside North Korea in Tier 3

This is not necessarily an indication of the prevalence of human trafficking, but is an indication of how governments respond to reports of human trafficking in terms of enforcement and prosecutions.

But an objective assessment of approaches to labour rights indicates that the Malaysian palm oil industry was already implementing many of the recommendations of its own volition, rather than being forced into it by other actors. This is largely because of the industry's implementation of voluntary standards throughout operations and its commitment to meeting the required standards of its customers in Western markets.

- For example, some key recommendations for Malaysia – as a country – are to eliminate recruitment or placement fees charged to workers by recruiters and ensure recruitment fees are paid by employers; effectively enforce the law prohibiting employers from retaining passports without employees' consent; expand efforts to inform migrant workers of their rights and Malaysian labour laws, including their rights to maintain access to their passports at any time, as well as opportunities for legal remedies to exploitation.



► From...20

These specific points are covered by Malaysia's MSPO standard, which is mandatory for all palm oil supply chain actors. In the past – pre-MSPO – it was prohibited under the rules of voluntary standards. Moreover, the MSPO standard ensures that companies cannot abrogate any responsibilities towards employees by stating that employees are 'indirect' or 'contract' workers. The standard requires to treat all workers as if they are direct employees.

The revisions to the MSPO standard – which is a government regulation -- are not acknowledged by the report, despite the clear emphasis on worker rights during the revision process. The revisions were also made public within the TIP Report's reporting period.

This begs a question: Did the TIP Report deliberately ignore these changes? Or was there a predetermined conclusion for the report on Malaysia?

The report is also clear that it does not take responses by non-governmental and commercial sectors into account. In other words, it is supposed to be a critique of government policies. There is a problem with this approach: sectors that are doing the right thing – and even attempting to remedy the situation – are nonetheless penalized for their actions. An example is the Responsible Employment Charter set forth by the Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA), which sets out binding commitments including the elimination of debt bondage, the support for workers' rights and trade unions, and the publishing of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).

The TIP Report approach means that all actors within a country will be tarred with the same brush unjustly.

However, this doesn't prevent the State Department from citing ad hominem NGO reports that are critical of the palm oil industry. The TIP report stated that the

report "documented multiple indicators of forced labor associated with the production of palm oil in Malaysia." That report appears to be authored by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) – a NGO that many of Malaysia's plantation companies have engaged with directly to improve the labour rights situation in Malaysia.

- In fact, this highlights that one of the recommendations that the TIP report made to Malaysia was greater engagement with NGOs – something the industry was already doing.

With regards to the FLA report, it made several recommendations regarding recruitment fees, passport retention and living conditions (among other things) – all of which have been addressed by the revised MSPO standard.

- Same Quote 3 Years Running: It's also worth noting that this particular entry in the TIP Report on the Fair Labor Association report has not changed in three years. Does this mean the TIP Report has just become something of a box-ticking exercise?

Ultimately, the TIP Report to some extent fails in its overall responsibilities because it fails to acknowledge that some sectors may already be taking matters into their own hands and attempting to improve, and instead persists at calling those sectors out as 'bad actors' because of the broader legal and regulatory context.

There is no doubt that the TIP Report is truly helpful for going some way to solving the global problems of human trafficking. However, palm oil has arguably taken more steps on human and labour rights in Malaysia than any other sector. Supporting and rewarding these voluntary shifts – rather than continuing to penalize – would go some way to improving all sectors across Malaysia.

