

ONLINE AND PRINT NEWSPAPER

News Indicator: Positive ● Negative ● Neutral ●

Date of Publication/Transmission: May 4th – May 6th, 2024

LOCAL NEWS

Bil.	Title	Source	Indicator	Priority
1.	'Tiba masa biojisim jadi bahan mentah bahan api baharu' https://www.bharian.com.my/bisnes/lain-lain/2024/05/1242241/tiba-masa-biojisim-jadi-bahan-mentah-bahan-api-baharu	Berita Harian	Positive ●	High
2.	Deputy Miti minister: Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2024/05/03/deputy-miti-minister-timely-for-malaysia-to-see-biomass-as-feedstock-for-advance-fuels/132183	Malay Mail	Positive ●	High
3.	Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels https://www.newsarawaktribune.com.my/timely-for-malaysia-to-see-biomass-as-feedstock-for-advance-fuels/	New Sarawak Tribune	Positive ●	High
4.	Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels, says Liew https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/10/45872/timely-malaysia-see-biomass-feedstock-advance-fuels-says-liew	New Straits Times	Positive ●	High
5.	'Jangan jual, edar, import sebarang produk yang boikot minyak sawit' - Johari https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242312/jangan-jual-edar-import-sebarang-produk-yang-boikot-minyak-sawit	Berita Harian	Positive ●	High
6.	'Warning shows Malaysia means business' [NSTTV] https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/10/46061/warning-shows-malaysia-means-business-nsttv	New Straits Times	Positive ●	High
7.	MSPO mampu penuhi permintaan Kesatuan Eropah - Pakar https://www.bharian.com.my/bisnes/lain-lain/2024/05/1242428/mspo-mampu-penuhi-permintaan-kesatuan-eropah-pakar	Berita Harian	Positive ●	High
8.	Minister: Don't discriminate against palm oil products https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/04/minister-dont-discriminate-against-palm-oil-products	The Star	Positive ●	High

ONLINE AND PRINT NEWSPAPER

News Indicator: **Positive** ● **Negative** ● **Neutral** ●

Date of Publication/Transmission: May 4th – May 6th, 2024

LOCAL NEWS

<i>Bil.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Priority</i>
9.	Bullish On Green: Palm oil is green, but still seen as grey https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/709718	<i>The Edge Malaysia</i>	Neutral ●	High
10.	Boikot minyak sawit tempatan jejas pekebun kecil, kata persatuan https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/tempatan/2024/05/04/boikot-minyak-sawit-tempatan-jejas-pekebun-kecil-kata-persatuan/	<i>Free Malaysia Today</i>	Neutral ●	High
11.	Kempen boikot produk kelapa sawit: Menteri keluar amaran untuk peruncit, pemborong, pengimport https://www.buletintv3.my/nasional/kempen-boikot-produk-kelapa-sawit-menteri-keluar-amaran-untuk-peruncit-pemborong-pengimport/	<i>Buletin TV3</i>	Positive ●	High
12.	'Jangan jual, edar, import sebarang produk yang boikot minyak sawit' - Johari Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9DQInrct-I	<i>Youtube (Harian Metro)</i>	Positive ●	High
13.	Kedai serbaneka jual aiskrim berlabel 'No Palm Oil' diserbu KPND https://berita.rtm.gov.my/nasional/senarai-berita-nasional/senarai-artikel/kedai-serbaneka-jual-aiskrim-berlabel-no-palm-oil-diserbu-kpnd	<i>Berita RTM</i>	Positive ●	High
14.	Banteras diskriminasi minyak sawit Kedai Serbaneka Jual Aiskrim 'No Palm Oil' Diserbu Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aovca3zOnVs	<i>Youtube (Buletin TV3)</i>	Positive ●	High
15.	Berita Wilayah- jual produk "no palm oil" KPND ambil tindakan ke atas premis Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPJkAf6cufU	<i>Youtube (Berita Wilayah RTM)</i>	Positive ●	High
16.	Pemain industri, NGO wajar turut serta perangi kempen anti sawit - MPOGCF https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242676/pemain-industri-ngo-wajar-turut-serta-perangi-kempen-anti-sawit	<i>Berita Harian</i>	Positive ●	High
17.	NST Leader: Of palm oil and boycott peddlers https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/leaders/2024/05/1046341/nst-leader-palm-oil-and-boycott-peddlers#google_vignette	<i>New Straits Times</i>	Neutral ●	High
18.	'Berhati-hati boikot elak terjerumus kezaliman' https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242960/berhati-hati-boikot-elak-terjerumus-kezaliman	<i>Berita Harian</i>	Neutral ●	High
19.	Issue warning, not RM250,000 fine for first-time 'no palm oil' label offences, urges Mydin boss https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/04/issue-warning-not-rm250000-fine-for-first-time-039no-palm-oil039-label-offences-urges-mydin-boss	<i>The Star</i>	Neutral ●	High

ONLINE AND PRINT NEWSPAPER**News Indicator:** Positive ● Negative ● Neutral ●Date of Publication/Transmission: May 4th – May 6th, 2024**LOCAL NEWS**

<i>Bil.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Priority</i>
20.	1.5 juta isi rumah terjejas akibat kempen ‘Tiada Minyak Sawit’ https://www.utusan.com.my/berita/2024/05/1-5-juta-isi-rumah-terjejas-akibat-kempen-tiada-minyak-sawit/#google_vignette	<i>Utusan Malaysia</i>	Neutral ●	High
21.	Minimising waste and maximising utility. Gamalux Oils pushes towards circular econ https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/233537/minimising-waste-and-maximising-utility-gamalux-oils-pushes-towards-circular-econ/	<i>Daily Express</i>	Positive ●	High
22.	Gamalux Oils pushes towards circular econ: Minimising waste and maximising utility https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/233504/gamalux-oils-pushes-towards-circular-econ-minimising-waste-and-maximising-utility/	<i>Daily Express</i>	Positive ●	High

ONLINE AND PRINT NEWSPAPER**News Indicator:** Positive ● Negative ● Neutral ●Date of Publication/Transmission: May 4th – May 6th, 2024**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

<i>Bil.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Priority</i>
1.	Malaysian authorities raid convenience store selling ‘No Palm Oil’ ice cream https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysian-authorities-raid-convenience-store-selling-no-palm-oil-ice-cream	<i>Straits Times</i>	Positive ●	High
2.	ZBiz Exclusive Inside Story of Palm Oil: Interview with Malaysia's Plantation Minister Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J0ogRqn5Ns	<i>Youtube (Zee Business)</i>	Positive ●	High
3.	Practising human rights due diligence in the palm oil industry https://www.eco-business.com/news/practising-human-rights-due-diligence-in-the-palm-oil-industry/	<i>Eco Business</i>	Positive ●	High

19 - Positive ● 0 - Negative ● 6 - Neutral ●

Total News : 25 News

DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT MPOB

'Tiba masa biojisim jadi bahan mentah bahan api baharu'

KUALA LUMPUR: Sudah tiba masanya bagi Malaysia menyaksikan biojisim berperanan sebagai stok suapan atau bahan mentah bagi bahan api baharu dan maju serta industri hijau lain, kata Timbalan Menteri Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri, Liew Chin Tong.

Ketika berkongsi perkara itu, beliau turut menekankan bahawa sememangnya menjadi strategi kerajaan untuk meningkatkan sektor biojisim yang sering dilihat sebagai hasil sampingan industri minyak sawit.

"Sehubungan itu, anjakan minda (perlu) dan melihat biojisim sebagai pengupaya diperlukan bagi industri baharu dan dengan nilai tambah tinggi yang dapat membantu mencapai misi yang digariskan dalam Pelan Induk Perindustrian Baharu 2030," katanya dalam kenyataan dikeluarkan oleh Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (MIDA) bersempena satu sesi yang diadakan di MIDA Sentral, semalam.

Sesi yang menghimpunkan pihak berkepentingan utama daripada ekosistem biojisim, mengetengahkan usaha bersepadu dalam memacu pelaburan bernilai tinggi dan kemajuan ke arah matlamat Malaysia untuk mencapai sasaran pelepasan sifar bersih karbon menjelang 2050.

Malah, sesi itu turut mengetengahkan kesungguhan Malaysia menggalakkan pelaburan mampan dalam sektor biojisim yang penting bagi mencapai sasaran sifar bersih itu sepertimana digariskan Perjanjian Paris 2016.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MIDA, Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid, menyentuh peranan agensi itu dalam memupuk persekitaran untuk memacu pertumbuhan industri biojisim di Malaysia.

"Sektor biojisim tidak hanya menyediakan peluang perniagaan menarik, namun berperanan penting dalam menyumbang kepada ekonomi kitaran untuk masa depan mampan.

"Berikutan itu, kita sedang berusaha untuk mempercepat penggunaan biojisim dan membantu kalangan komuniti menjadikan masa depan tenaga bersih sebagai satu kenyataan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Pengerusi MIDA, Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob pula menyentuh trend pelaburan dan ketidaktentuan sektor biojisim sejak 2019 serta cabarannya.

Beliau berkata skop biojisim sawit misalnya adalah besar dan merangkumi tenaga boleh baharu, biobahan api, biokimia, bioplastik, biobaja serta banyak lagi.

"Namun, kita melihat aliran pelaburan dalam sektor biojisim yang tidak menentu sejak 2019 dan tidak mencapai sasaran RM10 bilion ditetapkan dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12.

"Susulan itu, MIDA menyedari pentingnya usaha atau tindakan kolektif antara pihak berkuasa dan pihak berkepentingan terbabit serta pemain industri dalam menangani cabaran rantaian nilai biojisim. Ini termasuk kestabilan bahan mentah, mobilisasi dan mekanisme harga yang menjadi teras bagi menarik pelaburan jangka panjang," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, program yang disertai oleh 120 peserta mewakili pelbagai kementerian, agensi kerajaan, syarikat pelaburan berkaitan kerajaan, sektor swasta, dewan perniagaan asing, institusi akademik dan institusi kewangan, bertujuan memangkin penggunaan teknologi biojisim di pelbagai industri.

Turut diketengahkan adalah pembentangan bertajuk 'Pelaburan dan Prospek Biojisim Secara Menyeluruh' dan 'Trend Pasaran Biojisim Berasaskan Sawit' yang menggariskan peluang dalam menarik pelaburan untuk produk biojisim bernilai tinggi seperti biogas dan biobahan api.

<https://www.bharian.com.my/bisnes/lain-lain/2024/05/1242241/tiba-masa-biojisim-jadi-bahan-mentah-bahan-api-baharu>

Deputy Miti minister: Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong said it is time for Malaysia to see biomass as the feedstock for new and advanced fuels and other green industries.

He emphasised the government's strategy to bolster the biomass sector as biomass is often seen as the byproduct of the palm oil industry.

“The mindset shift means biomass is seen as a necessary enabler for new and high value-added industries that will help achieve the missions set out in the New Industrial Master Plan 2030,” he said in a statement issued by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida).

Yesterday's session at Mida Sentral brought together key stakeholders from the biomass ecosystem, demonstrating a concerted effort to drive high-value investments and progress towards Malaysia's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The session highlighted Malaysia's dedication to promoting sustainable investments in the biomass sector, which is crucial for achieving its net-zero target by 2050 as per the Paris Agreement 2016.

Mida chief executive officer Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid highlighted its role to foster a favourable environment for the growth of the biomass industries in Malaysia.

“The biomass sector not only presents exciting business opportunities but also plays a crucial role in contributing to a circular economy for a sustainable future.

“In this regard, we are working to accelerate the use of biomass and help communities realise a clean energy future,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mida chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob commented on the investment trends, noting a fluctuation in the biomass sector since 2019 and the challenges this poses.

“The scope of oil palm biomass is staggering, encompassing renewable energy, biofuels, biochemicals, bioplastics, bio-fertilisers, and more.“However, we also observe a concerning trend of fluctuating investments in the biomass sector since 2019, not meeting our ambitious target of RM10 billion as set in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

“Hence, Mida recognises the imperative of collective action between relevant authorities and stakeholders, as well as industry players to address challenges within the biomass value chain, including feedstock stability, mobilisation, and pricing mechanism, which are key to attracting long-term investment,” he said.

The meeting attracted 120 participants from ministries, government agencies, government-linked investment companies, private sector, foreign chambers, academic institutions and financial institutions. It aims to catalyse the adoption of biomass technologies across various industries.

The session also featured two presentations “Overall Biomass Investment and Prospects” and “Palm-Based Biomass Market Trends,” which outlined opportunities to attract investments in high-value biomass products like biogas and biofuels.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2024/05/03/deputy-miti-minister-timely-for-malaysia-to-see-biomass-as-feedstock-for-advance-fuels/132183>

Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong said it is time for Malaysia to see biomass as the feedstock for new and advanced fuels and other green industries.

He emphasised the government’s strategy to bolster the biomass sector as biomass is often seen as the byproduct of the palm oil industry.

“The mindset shift means biomass is seen as a necessary enabler for new and high value-added industries that will help achieve the missions set out in the New Industrial Master Plan 2030,” he said in a statement issued by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA).

Yesterday’s session at MIDA Sentral brought together key stakeholders from the biomass ecosystem, demonstrating a concerted effort to drive high-value investments and progress towards Malaysia’s goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The session highlighted Malaysia’s dedication to promoting sustainable investments in the biomass sector, which is crucial for achieving its net-zero target by 2050 as per the Paris Agreement 2016.

MIDA chief executive officer Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid highlighted its role to foster a favourable environment for the growth of the biomass industries in Malaysia.

“The biomass sector not only presents exciting business opportunities but also plays a crucial role in contributing to a circular economy for a sustainable future.

“In this regard, we are working to accelerate the use of biomass and help communities realise a clean energy future,” he said.

Meanwhile, MIDA chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob commented on the investment trends, noting a fluctuation in the biomass sector since 2019 and the challenges this poses.

“The scope of oil palm biomass is staggering, encompassing renewable energy, biofuels, biochemicals, bioplastics, bio-fertilisers, and more.

“However, we also observe a concerning trend of fluctuating investments in the biomass sector since 2019, not meeting our ambitious target of RM10 billion as set in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).“Hence, MIDA recognises the imperative of collective action between relevant authorities and stakeholders, as well as industry players to address challenges within the biomass value chain, including feedstock stability, mobilisation, and pricing mechanism, which are key to attracting long-term investment,” he said.

The meeting attracted 120 participants from ministries, government agencies, government-linked investment companies, private sector, foreign chambers, academic institutions and financial institutions. It aims to catalyse the adoption of biomass technologies across various industries.

The session also featured two presentations “Overall Biomass Investment and Prospects” and “Palm-Based Biomass Market Trends,” which outlined opportunities to attract investments in high-value biomass products like biogas and biofuels.

<https://www.newsarawaktribune.com.my/timely-for-malaysia-to-see-biomass-as-feedstock-for-advance-fuels/>

Timely for Malaysia to see biomass as feedstock for advance fuels, says Liew

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong said it is time for Malaysia to see biomass as the feedstock for new and advanced fuels and other green industries.

He emphasised the government's strategy to bolster the biomass sector as biomass is often seen as the byproduct of the palm oil industry.

"The mindset shift means biomass is seen as a necessary enabler for new and high value-added industries that will help achieve the missions set out in the New Industrial Master Plan 2030," he said in a statement issued by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida).

Yesterday's session at Mida Sentral brought together key stakeholders from the biomass ecosystem, demonstrating a concerted effort to drive high-value investments and progress towards Malaysia's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The session highlighted Malaysia's dedication to promoting sustainable investments in the biomass sector, which is crucial for achieving its net-zero target by 2050 as per the Paris Agreement 2016.

MIDA chief executive officer Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid highlighted its role to foster a favourable environment for the growth of the biomass industries in Malaysia.

"The biomass sector not only presents exciting business opportunities but also plays a crucial role in contributing to a circular economy for a sustainable future.

"In this regard, we are working to accelerate the use of biomass and help communities realise a clean energy future," he said.

Meanwhile, Mida chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Mahbob commented on the investment trends, noting a fluctuation in the biomass sector since 2019 and the challenges this poses.

"The scope of oil palm biomass is staggering, encompassing renewable energy, biofuels, biochemicals, bioplastics, bio-fertilisers, and more.

"However, we also observe a concerning trend of fluctuating investments in the biomass sector since 2019, not meeting our ambitious target of RM10 billion as set in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP). Hence, Mida recognises the imperative of collective action between relevant authorities and stakeholders, as well as industry players to address challenges within the biomass value chain, including feedstock stability, mobilisation, and pricing mechanism, which are key to attracting long-term investment," he said.

The meeting attracted 120 participants from ministries, government agencies, government-linked investment companies, private sector, foreign chambers, academic institutions and financial institutions. It aims to catalyse the adoption of biomass technologies across various industries.

The session also featured two presentations "Overall Biomass Investment and Prospects" and "Palm-Based Biomass Market Trends," which outlined opportunities to attract investments in high-value biomass products like biogas and biofuels.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/1045872/timely-malaysia-see-biomass-feedstock-advance-fuels-says-liew>

'Jangan jual, edar, import sebarang produk yang boikot minyak sawit' - Johari

oleh Rohaniza Idris

KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi memberi amaran tegas kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport di negara ini, supaya tidak menjual, mengedar atau mengimport produk yang dilabel dengan kempen memboikot produk kelapa sawit.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, berkata kementerianya akan bertindak tegas terhadap kempen boikot terbabit yang sebelum ini dilaksanakan dengan agresif di luar negara.

"Sebagai negara pengeluar kedua terbesar minyak sawit dunia, kementerian mahu tekankan bahawa kita kini lebih serius memerangi produk yang memboikot hasil kelapa sawit di dalam negara.

"Saya ingin memberi amaran ini kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport yang kita akan tegas kuatkuasakan Peraturan-Peraturan Perihal Dagangan (Larangan Penggunaan Pernyataan, Ungkapan Atau Petunjuk) (Keluaran Kelapa Sawit dan Barang-Barang Minyak Sawit) 2022 kepada mereka.

"Malah, selepas ini kementerian akan memaklumkan Jabatan Kastam DiRaja untuk lebih tegas dan teliti dalam pemeriksaan produk yang masuk ke negara ini berkaitan pelabelan boikot produk kelapa sawit," katanya dalam sidang media di Menara Dato Onn di sini, hari ini.

Amaran dan penegasan itu dibuat susulan tindakan Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) menyerbu sebuah kedai serbaneka di Presint 3 di Putrajaya semalam kerana disyaki menjual produk makanan tertera perkataan "No Palm Oil" (NPO) atau "Tiada Minyak Sawit" pada plastik pembungkusan produk itu.

Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, berkata serbuan yang bermula 11.45 pagi itu ialah berdasarkan aduan awam yang diterima KPDN dan hasil pemeriksaan, pasukan serbuan telah menemukan produk aiskrim pelbagai perisa yang mempunyai pernyataan NPO.

Kesemua produk aiskrim terbabit telah disita untuk siasatan lanjut dengan nilai rampasan berjumlah RM897.60.

Tahun lalu, kerajaan memperuntukkan sebanyak RM70 juta untuk kempen menangani anti minyak sawit.

Johari berkata, beliau mengalu-alukan dan menyokong tindakan yang diambil KPDN kerana kementerian itu ada kuasa menguatkuasa undang-undang terhadap perkara berkaitan.

Pada masa sama, beliau menegaskan, kementerianya akan terus memantau isu berkenaan dan meminta penguatkuasaan lebih kerap dijalankan.

"Kita bukan sekat pengimportan produk luar membabitkan minyak boleh makan ini, kita benarkan minyak soya, minyak bunga matahari dan minyak rapeseed tetapi jika produk itu ada label anti minyak sawit atau tiada minyak sawit (NPO) kita tidak benarkan.

"Kita mahu memastikan tindakan tegas ini bagi menjaga kepentingan industri kelapa sawit yang menjadi penyumbang ketiga terbesar kepada pendapatan negara.

"Kelapa sawit adalah komoditi utama yang penting dari segi hasil, malah ia memberi peluang pekerjaan kepada 1 juta orang dan 450,000 isi rumah pekebun kecil," katanya.

Berdasarkan peraturan itu, syarikat tempatan yang didapati terbabit aktiviti diskriminasi boleh dikenakan denda sehingga RM250,000.

Sementara itu, Johari mendedahkan, ada syarikat tempatan terutama pasar raya mewah yang menjual produk menggunakan label kempen anti minyak sawit atau NPO.

Katanya, beliau sudah pun membangkitkan perkara itu dalam Kabinet.

Beliau berkata, ada beberapa peniaga sudah pun menutup label berkenaan pada produk yang dijual.

"Kementerian memberi masa syarikat yang mengimport produk yang ada tertera label kempen anti minyak sawit untuk mengatasi perkara itu sama ada menutupnya atau membuat pembungkusan semula.

"Untuk masa depan, kita beri amaran tidak ada lagi mana-mana produk luar yang dibawa masuk mempunyai label kempen anti minyak sawit," katanya.

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242312/jangan-jual-edar-import-sebarang-produk-yang-boikot-minyak-sawit>

'Warning shows Malaysia means business'

[NSTTV]

by Asila Jalil, Faiqah Kamaruddin

KUALA LUMPUR: Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani's warning on stern action against companies discriminating against palm oil is the right move to show the world that Malaysia is taking its industry seriously.

Economists said that the suspected sale of food products with the words "No Palm Oil" written on the plastic packaging at a convenience store in Putrajaya was probably a result of foreign management in the local retail industry, which lacked understanding of national issues.

Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research senior fellow Dr Azmi Hassan said the raid by the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry on Thursday also served as a reminder to retailers to heed Johari's warning.

"This will send out a message to wholesalers and importers that products with these labels cannot be sold here. They have to repackage it, that is the least resellers or importers can do because this is discrimination against palm oil.

"What was done by Johari is the correct step. We begin this process with local retailers in Malaysia and slowly, this case will be brought up internationally," he said.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur's Business School analyst Associate Professor Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid said products with those labels should not be sold in the domestic market given the country's role as a global producer of palm oil.

"Lack of sensitivity may be the result of the involvement of foreigners in the retail market, especially in operating convenience stores.

"They may lack understanding on national issues and the importance of the palm oil industry to Malaysia.

"Our reliance on food imports from overseas, which amounts to almost RM70 billion annually and driven by escalating prices and erratic supply, may also contribute to the incident, with little priority on packaging," he said.

To prevent the matter from escalating, he said the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) must work with trade associations to ensure greater awareness of the issues at hand.

"Mass media campaigns must be strategically implemented to emphasise the importance of the industry to the country.

"Indeed, working with government agencies, especially those in enforcement, must be conducted and MPOB also must continue to invest in creating awareness globally," he added.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/1046061/warning-shows-malaysia-means-business-nsttv>

MSPO mampu penuhi permintaan Kesatuan Eropah - Pakar

KUALA LUMPUR: Panel pakar pensijilan yang dipanggil oleh Majlis Minyak Sawit Malaysia (MPOC) telah menilai keupayaan pensijilan Minyak Sawit Mampan Malaysia (MSPO) sebagai instrumen untuk memastikan pematuhan kepada Peraturan Bebas Penebangan Hutan Kesatuan Eropah (EUDR).

Seramai tiga orang pakar membentangkan penilaian mereka berkaitan nilai MSPO, termasuk peranan pematuhannya untuk EUDR pada Webinar MPOC 3.0 baru-baru ini yang dihadiri lebih 500 peserta dari Malaysia, Eropah dan global.

Menurut MPOC, dalam webinar itu, pakar teknikal Institut Hutan Eropah Dr Josil Murray membentangkan analisis perbezaan antara MSPO dan EUDR dan menggariskan aspek yang menunjukkan MSPO merupakan pensijilan yang berjaya.

"Aspek untuk penyelarasan selanjutnya turut dikenal pasti, termasuk mengurangkan jurang maklumat berkaitan penebangan hutan, pengesahan dari segi undang-undang, geolokasi dan kebolehsesan dalam pengeluaran minyak sawit," kata MPOC dalam satu kenyataan.

Pakar pensijilan antarabangsa dan juruaudit untuk minyak sawit dan getah Pierre Bois d'Enghien berkata MSPO harus diiktiraf oleh EU sebagai instrumen pematuhan, susulan ia merupakan piawaian yang baik, dan memenuhi semua keperluan kemampunan dan keperluan undang-undang EUDR.

D'Enghien turut menyatakan pematuhan kepada EUDR hanya akan dicapai jika Suruhanjaya EU bersedia untuk bekerjasama dengan negara di dunia membangun.

Oleh itu, beliau berkata usaha ini harus bermula dengan mengiktiraf dan memberi ganjaran kepada usaha positif rakan dagangan, termasuk standard pensijilan MSPO di Malaysia.

Malaysia, kata D'Enghien berada pada kedudukan yang baik disebabkan mempunyai pensijilan MSPO. Pengurus Perkhidmatan Pensijilan dan Operasi MSPO, Tan Chee Yong berkata MSPO telah berkembang sejak diperkenalkan pada 2013 dan menyerlahkan keperluan kemampuan utama baharu yang terdapat dalam Piawaian MSPO 2022 yang disemak semula.

Beliau juga menyatakan potensi penyelesaian industri minyak sawit Malaysia untuk memenuhi keperluan EUDR, seperti menaik taraf platform jejak MSPO dan menyelaras definisi berkaitan perhutanan MSPO dengan Pertubuhan Makanan dan Pertanian Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu atau EUDR. Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MPOC Belvinder Kaur Sron berkata MSPO ialah piawaian pensijilan bertaraf dunia dan berharga bagi pengeksport berikutan ia satu usaha mereka dalam mematuhi EUDR.

Beliau berkata perbincangan dengan kedua-dua pakar Eropah dan Malaysia mencapai kesimpulan yang sama iaitu MSPO adalah piawaian pensijilan bertaraf dunia dan bernilai untuk pengeksport kerana mereka berusaha untuk mematuhi EUDR. "Di sesetengah aspek, seperti tarikh tamat penebangan hutan, MSPO adalah lebih ketat berbanding EUDR.

"Kerjasama perlu ditingkatkan antara EU dan komuniti minyak sawit Malaysia, untuk mengenal pasti bagaimana MSPO boleh diterima dan diiktiraf oleh EU," kata Belvinder.

<https://www.bharian.com.my/bisnes/lain-lain/2024/05/1242428/mspo-mampu-penuhi-permintaan-kesatuan-eropah-pakar>

Minister: Don't discriminate against palm oil products

by Rahimy Rahim

KUALA LUMPUR: Stern action will be taken against retailers, distributors and importers if they sell products with labels that discriminate against palm oil products, says Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

The Plantation and Commodities Minister said under the Trade Descriptions (Prohibition of Use of Statement, Expression or Indication) (Oil Palm Product and Palm Oil Goods) Regulations 2022, offenders can be fined up to RM250,000 if they put any labels that discriminate against palm oil products.

He said enforcement activities will also be boosted to check on such products, and that the matter has been highlighted to the Customs Department.

"We want to show those outside that we are firm on this," he told a press conference here yesterday, in response to an infringement on the labelling law by a convenience store in Precinct 3 in Putrajaya.

The store was raided by the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry on Thursday for allegedly putting on sale food products with the words "No Palm Oil" (NPO) on the packaging.

Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali said the raid followed a public complaint received by his ministry, and the raiding team found various ice cream products with discriminatory wording.

“All the ice cream products worth RM897.60 have been confiscated for further investigation,” said Armizan, adding that the related labelling regulations came into force on March 15, 2022.

Asked if supermarkets were still allowed to sell those products, Johari said they are allowed to do so as long as they remove such labels.

“Some of them put a sticker on top of such wording. They might still have some stock, but in the future, we do not want to be like this.

“I want the retailers, distributors and importers to understand our stance, that’s all,” he added.

He also said he welcomed such enforcement activities by Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry and viewed the latest incident as a serious matter.

“Palm oil is an important commodity for us and we are the second largest producer in the world.

“We now have effective enforcement to ensure there is no discrimination against palm oil products,” said Johari.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/04/minister-dont-discriminate-against-palm-oil-products>

Bullish On Green: Palm oil is green, but still seen as grey

by DR Hezri Adnan

Despite the palm oil industry bending over backwards to green up its act in the last few decades, it is still under fire. Critics cannot shake the image of palm oil as the nemesis of biodiversity, or worse, the big bad wolf of tropical deforestation. No matter how hard palm oil producers try to play a good character, they still end up being cast as a villain in an environmental saga.

Recently, Global Witness has raised alarms over agricultural products in US supermarkets, linking them to deforestation comparable in size to Los Angeles. Based on the findings of Trase, a sustainable trade data initiative, they spotlighted palm oil as a key factor in the US’ association with deforestation in tropical regions from 2021 to 2023. In this report, Indonesia accounts for an incredible 95.4% of the 41,500ha lost, while Colombia and Malaysia contribute 3% and 1.5% respectively to this forest destruction.

Yet, back in 2011, Indonesia set a firm boundary against deforestation, no longer allowing palm oil companies to expand into primary or virgin forests. Fast-forward to 2021, and the payoff is clear — a 75% drop in deforestation rates from 2020 — the lowest forest loss since records began in 1990. Rarely acknowledged, also, Indonesia keeps 95.6 million hectares under forest cover, an area more than twice the size of California.

For Malaysia, palm oil-driven deforestation is yesterday’s news. It has set a ceiling for palm oil cultivation area at 6.5 million hectares. Due to urban sprawl, the figure has fallen even further to 5.6 million hectares, shrinking the impact of Malaysia’s palm oil on the environment.

Critics’ pushback against palm oil encompasses not just environmental concerns but social ones as well. The emphasis on issues like land and labour rights, especially the well-being of migrant workers, underscores the breadth of the challenges palm oil-producing nations face.

Against all odds, the industry has shown that the commodity can be, and is generally produced sustainably by taking environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects into account. The adoption of the standards of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO), and Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) shows that the cultivation of oil palm and environmental stewardship can indeed go hand in hand.

Of the 332 million hectares used for vegetable oils worldwide, only 8.6% is palm oil, and of this fraction, 4.5 million hectares of land are RSPO-certified. In Malaysia, the adoption of the MSPO certification has reached an almost universal level, with over 97% of plantations holding this certification.

The industry is redefining what is possible in sustainable agriculture, with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board spearheading the development of over 700 technologies to be leveraged in industry. It has made significant strides in adding higher-value benchmarks, with usage for oleochemicals and biofuels reaching 37% in 2023, up from 28% in 2013. This shift towards non-food applications demonstrates the industry's ability to diversify and reduce its environmental footprint.

Although palm is more sustainable than other vegetable oils, is the affluent North really paying attention? Is it understood clearly that sustainability is not attainable without inclusivity? Half of the world's palm oil is grown by smallholder farmers. The boom in the business has helped them boost income and escape poverty. Still, smallholders' average yield is around 3.25 mt/hectare, half the 5.9 mt/hectare yield achieved by the best palm oil companies.

Sadly though, the opposite seems true, and the sector continues to face unfair treatment. NGOs are calling for importers to tighten restrictions on producer nations because of claims of ongoing deforestation. The guiding mantra is "No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation".

Europe is gearing up to enforce the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will block imports of commodities linked to recent deforestation. While setting strict standards for palm oil imports aims to encourage sustainability, EUDR might unfairly impact many in the supply chain, especially smallholder farmers who lack the resources to comply with its complex requirements. In the US, a push for the FOREST Act, formally known as the Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade Act, highlights a similar crusade for green accountability in trade practices.

Relying solely on regulation has led to perceptions that the developed North has lost touch with reality by relentlessly raising the bar. This view is vindicated by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) landmark ruling against the EU in March 2024 for limiting the use of palm oil as a biofuel. The WTO identified the EU's treatment of Malaysia in the Renewable Energy Directive II context, particularly regarding palm oil biodiesel, as "arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination". This decision emphasises the long-standing misconceptions against a vital industry.

Going forward requires a win-win approach. Since new land is limited, investors may help green the palm oil business by nudging it to focus on high-value products and downstream growth. The shift began with six palm oil companies featured on the F4GBM index, Bursa Malaysia's ESG benchmark for stocks. While these are above-average ESG performers, more companies need fresh capital to join the fray and move the needle meaningfully. With plush ESG funds, the industry can further improve its sustainability efforts — think digitalisation for traceability, automation, plantation mechanisation, cutting-edge farming technologies and net zero opportunities.

These increased investments would reinforce the industry's role in feeding the world with sustainable vegetable oil and aid climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Also, by allocating ESG funds to smallholder farmers rather than industrial plantations, we will ensure that sustainability is not a privilege but a shared goal across the board.

Just as the industry has gone the extra mile to enhance its green credentials, it now calls for investors to champion the sustainability cause further, by equipping the palm oil ecosystem with the necessary tools and ensuring that every player in producing countries, has a fair shake at the table.

<https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/709718>

Boikot minyak sawit tempatan jejas pekebun kecil, kata persatuan

Mohamad Fadli

PETALING JAYA: Sebuah pertubuhan pekebun kecil kelapa sawit bimbang kempen 'Tiada Minyak Sawit' atau 'No Palm Oil' termasuk dipaparkan pada pembungkusan produk dari luar negara dijual di Malaysia akan menjejaskan pendapatan mereka untuk jangka panjang.

Mengulas penemuan produk aiskrim memaparkan label kempen itu dalam serbuan di sebuah kedai serbaneka di Putrajaya, kelmarin, Presiden Persatuan Kebangsaan Pekebun-Pekebun Kecil Malaysia Adzmi Hassan menggesa orang ramai tidak menyokongnya.

Menurutnya, kempen seumpama itu tidak akan membantu pertumbuhan ekonomi memandangkan pekebun kecil yang menyumbangkan kepada 40% eksport komoditi utama negara.

Beliau turut menegaskan tidak timbul isu kaedah penanamannya memandangkan semua pengusaha ladang dan pengeluar minyak mengamalkan pengurusan baik termasuk menerusi Pensijilan Minyak Sawit Mampan Malaysia (MSPO).

"Jika (kempen) itu dibiarkan, nanti pengguna lain buat kempen (yang sama) dan akan memberi imej buruk pada minyak sawit kita.

"Kalau minyak sawit tak diterima di antarabangsa, pekebun kecil yang menyumbangkan 40% kepada eksport negara akan terjejas berikutan permintaan eksport (kurang) serta harga (akan) jatuh," katanya kepada FMT.

Dalam serbuan di Presint 3 itu, Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup menyita produk aiskrim mempunyai label 'No Palm Oil' iaitu kesalahan bawah Peraturan-Peraturan Perihal Dagangan (Larangan Penggunaan Pernyataan, Ungkapan Atau Petunjuk) (Keluaran Kelapa Sawit dan Barang-Barang Minyak Sawit) 2022.

Menerusi undang-undang mula berkuat kuasa 15 Mac lalu, mereka yang melakukan kesalahan itu boleh didenda maksimum RM250,000 atau penjara tidak lebih lima tahun.

Adzmi berkata, pihaknya menyokong penguatkuasaan KPDN dan ketegasan Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi Johari Ghani dalam mencegah kemasukan produk luar negara yang menyelitkan kempen seumpama itu.

"Kena lindungi minyak sawit kita kerana kualitinya diiktiraf," katanya mengulas kenyataan Johari yang kerajaan tidak akan membenarkan mana-mana produk dengan mesej tiada minyak sawit dijual dalam negara.

Kempen boikot produk kelapa sawit: **Menteri keluar amaran untuk peruncit,** **pemborong, pengimport**

KUALA LUMPUR: Peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport di negara ini diingatkan untuk tidak menjual, mengedar atau mengimport produk yang dilabel dengan kempen memboikot produk kelapa sawit.

Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, berkata kementerian akan bertindak tegas terhadap kempen boikot terbabit yang sebelum ini dilaksanakan dengan agresif di luar negara.

“Sebagai negara pengeluar kedua terbesar minyak sawit dunia, kementerian mahu tekankan bahawa kita kini lebih serius memerangi produk yang memboikot hasil kelapa sawit di dalam negara.

“Saya ingin memberi amaran ini kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport yang kita akan tegas kuatkuasakan Peraturan-Peraturan Perihal Dagangan (Larangan Penggunaan Pernyataan, Ungkapan Atau Petunjuk) (Keluaran Kelapa Sawit dan Barang-Barang Minyak Sawit) 2022 kepada mereka.

“Malah, selepas ini kementerian akan memaklumkan Jabatan Kastam Diraja untuk lebih tegas dan teliti dalam pemeriksaan produk yang masuk ke negara ini berkaitan pelabelan boikot produk kelapa sawit,” katanya dalam sidang media di Menara Dato Onn di sini, hari ini.

Amaran dan penegasan itu dibuat susulan tindakan Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) menyerbu sebuah kedai serbaneka di Presint 3 di Putrajaya semalam kerana disyaki menjual produk makanan tertera perkataan “No Palm Oil” (NPO) atau “Tiada Minyak Sawit” pada plastik pembungkusan produk itu.

Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, berkata serbuan yang bermula 11.45 pagi itu ialah berdasarkan aduan awam yang diterima KPDN dan hasil pemeriksaan, pasukan serbuan telah menemukan produk aiskrim pelbagai perisa yang mempunyai pernyataan NPO.

Kesemua produk aiskrim terbabit telah disita untuk siasatan lanjut dengan nilai rampasan berjumlah RM897.60.

Tahun lalu, kerajaan memperuntukkan sebanyak RM70 juta untuk kempen menangani anti minyak sawit.

'Jangan jual, edar, import sebarang produk yang boikot minyak sawit' - Johari



Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi memberi amaran tegas kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport di negara ini, supaya tidak menjual, mengedar atau mengimport produk yang dilabel dengan kempen memboikot produk kelapa sawit.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, berkata kementeriannya akan bertindak tegas terhadap kempen boikot terbabit yang sebelum ini dilaksanakan dengan agresif di luar negara.

Youtube (Harian Metro): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9DQ1nrct-I>

Kedai serbaneka jual aiskrim berlabel 'No Palm Oil' diserbu KPDN

PUTRAJAYA: Sebuah kedai serbaneka di Presint 3, Putrajaya diserbu Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) semalam, kerana disyaki menjual produk makanan tertera perkataan "No Palm Oil" (NPO) atau "Tiada Minyak Sawit" pada plastik pembungkusan produk itu.

Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali menerusi satu kenyataan memaklumkan, serbuan dilakukan pada pukul 11.45 pagi.

"KPDN bertindak berdasarkan aduan awam dan hasil pemeriksaan, pasukan serbuan telah menemukan produk aiskrim pelbagai perisa yang mempunyai pernyataan NPO.

"Kesemua produk aiskrim terbabit telah disita untuk siasatan lanjut dengan nilai rampasan berjumlah RM897.60,"katanya dalam kenyataan tersebut.

Jelas Armizan, kes tersebut akan disiasat bawah Peraturan-Peraturan Perihal Dagangan (Larangan Penggunaan Pernyataan, Ungkapan Atau Petunjuk) (Keluaran Kelapa Sawit dan Barang-Barang Minyak Sawit) 2022.

Jika sabit kesalahan, pihak berkenaan boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM250,000 atau dipenjarakan selama tempoh tidak melebihi lima tahun.

Perundangan tersebut telah dikuatkuasakan bermula 15 Mac 2022.

Tambah Armizan, berdasarkan statistik penguatkuasaan bermula 15 Mac 2022 hingga 2 Mei 2024, KPDN telah membuat sebanyak 5,057 pemeriksaan di seluruh negara terhadap premis pelbagai peringkat rantaian pengedaran.

"Daripada jumlah itu, KPDN merekodkan empat kes. Tindakan tegas akan diambil terhadap mana-mana syarikat pengimport, pengedar, penjual dan pihak berkaitan yang menjual produk diimport dari luar negara yang tidak mematuhi perundangan berkaitan.

"Jenis kesalahan meliputi pernyataan berbentuk ungkapan atau petunjuk yang mungkin mendiskriminasi atau memboikot apa-apa keluaran atau barang-barang yang melibatkan komoditi utama negara iaitu minyak kelapa sawit," menurutnya dalam kenyataan tersebut.

<https://berita.rtm.gov.my/nasional/senarai-berita-nasional/senarai-artikel/kedai-serbaneka-jual-aiskrim-berlabel-no-palm-oil-diserbu-kpdn>

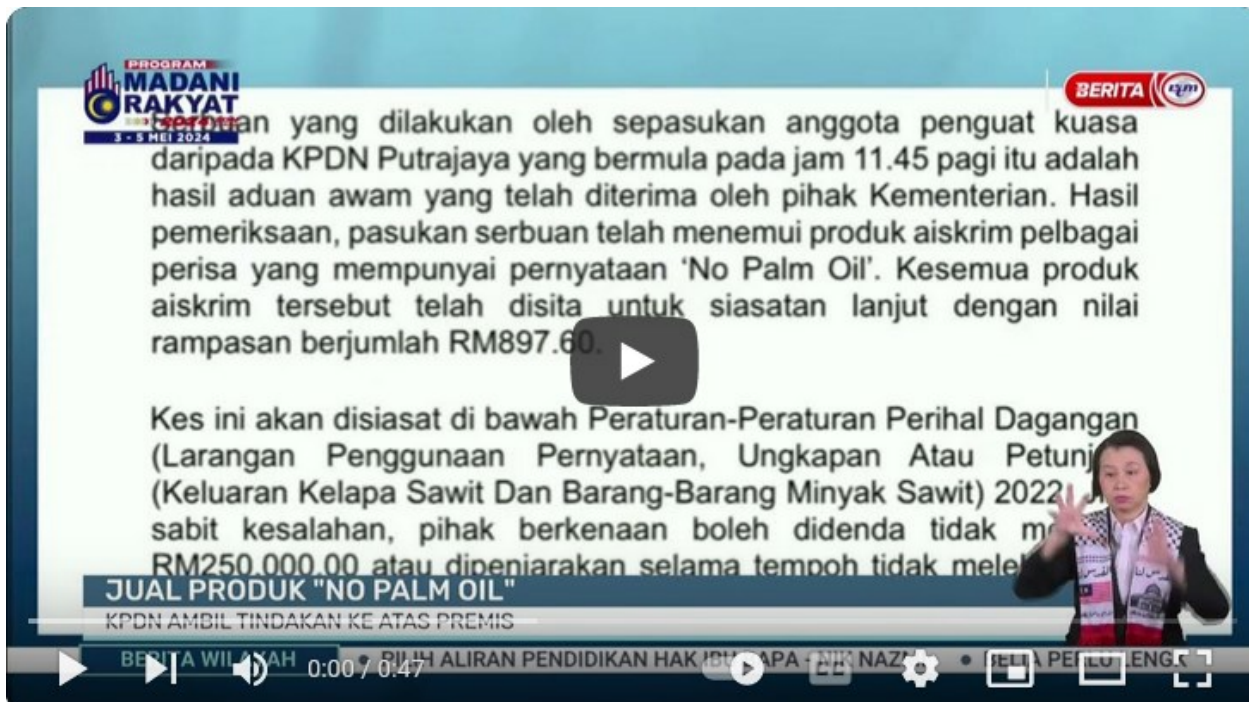
Banteras diskriminasi minyak sawit | Kedai Serbaneka Jual Aiskrim 'No Palm Oil' Diserbu



Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi memberi amaran tegas kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport di negara ini supaya tidak menjual, mengedar atau mengimport produk yang dilabel 'no palm oil' atau tiada minyak sawit.

Youtube (Buletin TV3): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aovca3zOnVs>

Berita Wilayah- jual produk "no palm oil" KPDN ambil tindakan ke atas premis



Youtube (Berita Wilayah RTM): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPJkAf6cufU>

Pemain industri, NGO wajar turut serta perangi kempen anti sawit – MPOGCF

oleh Suzalina Halid

KUALA LUMPUR: Yayasan Pemuliharaan Hijau Minyak Sawit Malaysia (MPOGCF) menggariskan lima cadangan termasuk pembabitan secara langsung oleh pemain industri bagi menanganikan kempen memburukkan minyak sawit Malaysia.

Pengurus Besarinya, Hairulazim Mahmud, berkata selain itu, pihaknya turut mencadangkan supaya diadakan pendedahan fakta kebaikan minyak sawit bermula di sekolah rendah hingga ke pusat pengajian tinggi.

"Badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) perlu digerakkan supaya bersama menyokong usaha kerajaan secara langsung atau tidak langsung bagi menangkis kempen anti sawit.

"Usaha mempergiatkan dan menggalakkan ini serta inisiatif pemuliharaan biodiversiti negara dalam kalangan pemain industri juga dicadangkan untuk dilaksanakan.

"Pembabitan dan sokongan media arus perdana tempatan secara aktif juga penting dalam kempen memerangi kempen anti sawit bagi memberikan gambaran jelas kepada rakyat negara ini betapa pentingnya industri kelapa sawit ini," katanya kepada BH, di sini.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi mengulas amaran tegas Kementerian Perladangan dan Komoditi kepada peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport di negara ini, supaya tidak menjual, mengedar atau mengimport produk yang dilabel dengan kempen memboikot produk kelapa sawit.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Johari Ghani, dilaporkan berkata pihaknya akan bertindak tegas terhadap kempen boikot terbabit yang sebelum ini dilaksanakan dengan agresif di luar negara.

Pada masa sama, Hairulazim berkata, kempen anti sawit yang didalangi oleh pesaing minyak kelapa sawit amat tidak wajar melintasi sempadan negara kerana Malaysia adalah antara pengeluar utama bahan berkenaan di dunia.

Sebagai pengeluar utama dan kedua terbesar sawit di dunia selepas Indonesia, beliau berkata, sudah pasti industri serta kerajaan mengambil langkah utama memastikan produk makanan ini memenuhi kehendak pasaran, permintaan dan peraturan digariskan semua pihak berkaitan.

"MPOGCF turut menyokong kenyataan tegas Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi kepada mana-mana pihak khususnya penjual, pengedar dan pengimport produk yang dilabel dengan kempen memboikot produk kelapa sawit." Kedegilan pihak ini bermaksud mereka 'memusuhi' industri utama negara yang mengutamakan kemampuan yang menjadi syarat utama pemasaran dunia dalam proses pengeluarannya bermula di peringkat hulu sehingga hiliran," katanya.

Beliau berkata, banyak inisiatif dilaksanakan dengan jutaan ringgit dibelanjakan oleh pihak industri bersama sokongan kuat kerajaan dalam usaha memulihara biodiversiti negara.

"Seperti MPOGCF ditubuhkan bekerjasama dengan lebih 40 pemegang taruh industri sawit bagi memastikan industri terbabit secara langsung dengan usaha pemuliharaan alam sekitar dan hidupan liar." Ia adalah bagi mencapai indikasi Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan (SDG) Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB)," katanya.

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242676/pemain-industri-ngo-wajar-turut-serta-perangi-kempen-anti-sawit>

NST Leader: Of palm oil and boycott peddlers

CALL it audacity on steroids. How else would you tag the peddling of anti-palm oil products in oil palm-rich Malaysia? Such brazenness came to light on Thursday when a convenience store was caught retailing products bearing the "No palm oil" (NPO) label in Putrajaya, the home of enforcers.

How long the store has been doing it is anybody's guess. But Putrajaya isn't the only place where NPO gall happens. The whole country is a NPO product peddlers' paradise, with big-brand supermarkets being among those retailing them with a catch-me-if-you-can challenge to enforcement agencies. This is unacceptable behaviour given the critical contribution of the palm oil industry to the country, a sentiment expressed by Plantations and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani on Friday following the Putrajaya raid.

Nearly a million employees depend on the success of the industry for their survival. So do thousands of smallholders and supply chain operators. Here's the context. Malaysia is, after Indonesia, the second-largest producer of palm oil in the world. The two countries produce close to 90 per cent of the world's palm oil. Oil palm is a yield beater compared with soyabean, rapeseed or sunflower.

It produces up to 10 times more oil per hectare. Using less land but producing more, oil palm has been the envy of soybean, rapeseed and sunflower farmers. Palm oil is in almost everything: pizza, chocolate, margarine, ice cream, shampoos, deodorants and everything in between. The three vegetable oil producers' envy has grown into an aggressive palm oil boycott.

NPO is just one munition in the vast arsenal of their propaganda campaign. In the early years of the multi-million euro propaganda campaign, palm oil was painted as bad for health.

Op-eds, news analyses and papers published in "science" journals were selling the idea with a vengeance. When nutritional science put to bed these false claims, the propagandists pushed the story of disappearing orangutans.

After this short-lived narrative, it is now deforestation and climate change.

Coming fresh out of the biofuel battle with the European Union in the World Trade Organisation, Putrajaya is only too aware of how toxic the aggressive boycott can get.

Discriminatory laws based on false science isn't a coincidence. According to Johari, the government last year spent RM70 million battling the anti-palm oil campaign abroad. This is not counting the cost of the boycott campaign to the industry and the country's economy.

Malaysian importers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers must not choose to be part of the palm oil boycott campaign. If they are found to have chosen to do so, then they must be made to pay a heavy price.

Sorry must be made to be the hardest word. Otherwise, it will become a trend to apologise and escape, as it has become of late. The law is clear: RM250,000 or five years in jail or both. Fine and jail them, we say. Destruction of livelihood and the economy aren't small sins. One more thing. We may have spent too much time battling boycotts overseas and much less at home. Time to start. And the oil palm industry must help the government to help itself.

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/leaders/2024/05/1046341/nst-leader-palm-oil-and-boycott-peddlers>

'Berhati-hati boikot elak terjerumus kezaliman'

BELALANG akui umat Islam di negara ini sangat sensitif dengan perkara berkaitan agama daripada isu penghinaan hingga soal hidup mati saudara seagama bersama Arab Kristian di Gaza, Palestin yang menjadi mangsa serangan genosid rejim Israel.

Justeru, cara paling ampuh tidak melanggar undang-undang atau menggunakan keganasan untuk menunjukkan solidariti dan menghantar mesej tegas kepada sesiapa bersekongkol adalah dengan boikot.

Bagaimanapun, Belalang bersetuju dengan pandangan banyak ilmuwan supaya kita berhati-hati dalam melaksanakan tindakan berbentuk ekonomi itu termasuk terbaru Mufti Perak, Datuk Seri Wan Zahidi Wan Teh. Inti peringatan mereka adalah ia perlu dilakukan secara bijaksana, berilmu dan beretika termasuk memastikan sasaran diboikot betul-betul terbabit contohnya menyumbang dana kepada kerajaan dan tentera Israel atau sekutu kuatnya.

Apabila boikot dilakukan dengan cara tidak betul, natijahnya umat Islam yang mahu membela agama atau penduduk Gaza rupa-rupanya melakukan kezaliman, malah mendatangkan keburukan kepada kita sendiri. Belalang sedih melihat ada berbangga apabila ada syarikat tempatan selama ini mengeluarkan zakat, membantu dalam bidang pendidikan dan menyumbang kepada ekonomi negara terpaksa mengecilkan operasi perniagaan yang akhirnya menjejaskan kita juga.



Jual produk antiminyak sawit sokong agenda asing

Sebut mengenai boikot, Belalang terkejut ada rakyat Malaysia tidak sedar, buat-buat tidak sedar atau mungkin jahil apabila terbabit dalam kempen Barat memboikot produk kelapa sawit. Hal ini terdedah apabila Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) menyerbu sebuah kedai serbaneka di Putrajaya kerana disyaki menjual makanan tertera label 'No Palm Oil' (NPO) atau 'Tiada Minyak Sawit' pada plastik pembungkusannya.

Kerajaan pada tahun lalu sahaja memperuntukkan RM70 juta untuk kempen menangani antiminyak sawit dan entah berapa puluh juta lagi sudah dibelanjakan dalam usaha untuk meningkatkan promosi di dalam negara mahupun di luar negara. Mana-mana peruncit, pemborong dan pengimport produk yang menyokong kempen menjejaskan komoditi tempatan yang menjadi penyumbang ketiga terbesar pendapatan negara memang patut dikenakan hukuman seberat-beratnya kerana bersekongkol dengan agenda kuasa asing.

Belalang minta kastam bertanggungjawab di pintu masuk negara terutama pelabuhan lebih teliti dalam memastikan tidak ada lagi produk yang menyokong antiminyak sawit dibawa masuk. Pengguna pula mesti peka ketika membaca label di plastik pembungkusan yang bukan hanya melihat kepada kandungan atau tanda halal bagi umat Islam, lalu melaporkannya kepada pihak berkuasa.

<https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2024/05/1242960/berhati-hati-boikot-elak-terjerumus-kezaliman>

Issue warning, not RM250,000 fine for first-time 'no palm oil' label offences, urges Mydin boss

by Geraldine Tong

PETALING JAYA: Retailers found selling products with labels that discriminate against palm oil products should only be given a warning if it is a first-time offence, says Bumiputera Retailers Association president Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin.

"I suggest first-time offenders be given a warning only as I am sure it's not intentional," said Ameer, who is also Mydin managing director.

He also said it was not realistic to expect retailers to scrutinise the labels of every item they sell.

"They should go after importers and not retailers. Many retailers just buy goods from the distributors and wholesalers so we cannot be expected to go through the ingredients (sic) of each item," he said.

Ameer was responding to Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, who said stern action will be taken against retailers, distributors and importers if they sell products with labels that discriminate against palm oil products.

Under the Trade Descriptions (Prohibition of Use of Statement, Expression or Indication) (Oil Palm Product and Palm Oil Goods) Regulations 2022, offenders can be fined up to RM250,000 for labels that discriminate against palm oil products.

A convenience store in Precinct 3, Putrajaya was raided by the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry on Thursday (May 2) for allegedly selling ice cream products with the words "No Palm Oil" on the packaging.

The raid, which was prompted by a public complaint received, saw products worth RM897.60 confiscated for further investigation.

Johari also said that retailers are allowed to continue to sell such products as long as they remove any anti-palm oil labels.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2024/05/04/issue-warning-not-rm250000-fine-for-first-time-039no-palm-oil039-label-offences-urges-mydin-boss>

1.5 juta isi rumah terjejas akibat kempen 'Tiada Minyak Sawit'

oleh Hafiz Saidina

PETALING JAYA: Kira-kira seramai 1.5 juta isi rumah akan terjejas hasil pendapatan mereka bagi jangka panjang sekiranya kempen 'Tiada Minyak Sawit' atau 'No Palm Oil' yang dipaparkan pada pembungkusan produk dari luar negara dijual di Malaysia.

Presiden Persatuan Kebangsaan Pekebun-Pekebun Kecil Malaysia (PKPKM), Adzmi Hassan berkata, kerajaan perlu membuat penguatkuasaan secara bersepadu di semua negeri.

Katanya, 560,000 pekebun kecil melibatkan hampir 1.6 juta hektar yang mengusahakan kelapa sawit akan terkesan sekiranya kempen tersebut sampai ke peringkat antarabangsa.

“Jika kempen tersebut sampai ke peringkat antarabangsa ia akan menambahkan lagi masalah negara dalam industri minyak kelapa sawit.

“Harga minyak kelapa sawit akan jatuh lebih rendah yang akhirnya banyak pihak terkesan” katanya kepada Mingguan Malaysia.

Semalam akhbar ini melaporkan, kerajaan akan mengambil tindakan tegas kepada mana-mana pihak sama ada penjual, pengedar atau pengimport produk yang mendiskriminasi minyak sawit negara.

Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani berkata, tindakan tegas boleh diambil di bawah akta sedia ada bagi melindungi kepentingan minyak sawit yang merupakan komoditi penting buat negara.

Kata beliau, minyak sawit merupakan eksport ketiga terbesar negara dan sektor berkenaan memberi peluang pekerjaan kepada hamper satu juta orang.

Adzmi berkata, pihaknya menyokong tindakan Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) dalam menjalankan operasi berikut.

“Tindakan penguatkuasaan itu adalah tepat dalam masa kita giat mempromosikan minyak kelapa sawit melalui satisfikasi minyak sawit yang mampan.

“Kita juga mesti memantau dan meneliti bekalan minyak yang diimport ke Malaysia, terutamanya mempunyai unsur-unsur ‘Tiada Minyak Sawit’,” katanya.

<https://www.utusan.com.my/berita/2024/05/1-5-juta-isi-rumah-terjejas-akibat-kempen-tiada-minyak-sawit/>

Minimising waste and maximising utility. Gamalux Oils pushes towards circular econ

LAHAD DATU: Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd’s Research and Development Centre is focused on advancing sustainable oil palm origin-based products to support global Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) producers.

Gamalux’s Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Usman Ahmed said, Gamalux’s commitments are rooted in their dedication to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

Usman said, Gamalux now stands as one of Malaysia’s leading producers of renewable energy feedstocks for SAF, HVO and Green Truck Diesel industries, leveraging the potential of vegetable oil waste for sustainable energy solutions.

“This centre which is located in Lahad Datu Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) is in line with Gamalux’s mission to enhance the value of oil palm feedstocks, enabling sustainable and efficient production.

“Through innovative research, Gamalux’s aim to optimise these feedstocks for renewable and green energy applications, specifically targeting the development of biofuels and other green technologies,” he said.

Usman said this at the groundbreaking ceremony for Gamalux’s Research and Development Centre, Friday.

According to Usman, the centre prioritises the refinement and diversification of oil palm derivatives, fostering a circular economy that minimises waste and maximises utility. *He added that, by pushing boundaries in research and development, Gamalux is dedicated to empowering the transition towards renewable energy solutions anchored in the potential of palm oil-based products.*

Earlier on, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Datuk Chan Foong Hin while officiating the groundbreaking ceremony said it was a pleasure to visit Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd's factory.

Chan said, he was impressed to see the significant investment from Pakistan through Gamalux at POIC Lahad Datu, which underscores the growing international interest in Sabah's economic potential.

"I am also excited to hear about Gamalux's plans for oleochemicals expansion in 2025, marking a significant milestone as the first unit in Malaysian Borneo.

"This event not only demonstrates Gamalux's ambition but also its strong confidence in Lahad Datu as a growing hub for sustainable industrial development within the palm oil sector," said Chan.

Chan said, by enhancing Lahad Datu's industrial landscape, he hopes Gamalux is not only shaping its own future but also contributing to Sabah's economic resilience.

He said, this strategic decision underscores Gamalux's commitment to driving positive change and fostering prosperity, setting a remarkable precedent for the industry and the region as a whole.

"I am looking forward to witnessing the continued success of Gamalux and the broader POIC initiative.

"Together, let us work together towards a prosperous and sustainable future for Sabah as a hub of sustainable economic development," he added.

During his visit, Chan also visited the existing Solvent Extraction Plant (SEP) and Specialised Refinery Plant (SRP) at Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd Sabah facility.

The Minister of Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship of Sabah, Datuk Phoong Jin Zhe was also present.

<https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/233537/minimising-waste-and-maximising-utility-gamalux-oils-pushes-towards-circular-econ/>

Gamalux Oils pushes towards circular econ: Minimising waste and maximising utility

LAHAD DATU: Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd's Research and Development Centre is focused on advancing sustainable oil palm origin-based products to support global Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) producers.

Gamalux's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Usman Ahmed said, Gamalux's commitments are rooted in their dedication to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

Usman said, Gamalux now stands as one of Malaysia's leading producers of renewable energy feedstocks for SAF, HVO and Green Truck Diesel industries, leveraging the potential of vegetable oil waste for sustainable energy solutions.

“This centre which is located in Lahad Datu Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) is in line with Gamalux’s mission to enhance the value of oil palm feedstocks, enabling sustainable and efficient production.

“Through innovative research, Gamalux’s aim to optimise these feedstocks for renewable and green energy applications, specifically targeting the development of biofuels and other green technologies,” he said.

Usman said this at the groundbreaking ceremony for Gamalux’s Research and Development Centre, Friday.

According to Usman, the centre prioritises the refinement and diversification of oil palm derivatives, fostering a circular economy that minimises waste and maximises utility.

He added that, by pushing boundaries in research and development, Gamalux is dedicated to empowering the transition towards renewable energy solutions anchored in the potential of palm oil-based products.

Earlier on, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Datuk Chan Foong Hin while officiating the groundbreaking ceremony said it was a pleasure to visit Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd’s factory.

Chan said, he was impressed to see the significant investment from Pakistan through Gamalux at POIC Lahad Datu, which underscores the growing international interest in Sabah’s economic potential.

“I am also excited to hear about Gamalux’s plans for oleochemicals expansion in 2025, marking a significant milestone as the first unit in Malaysian Borneo.

“This event not only demonstrates Gamalux’s ambition but also its strong confidence in Lahad Datu as a growing hub for sustainable industrial development within the palm oil sector,” said Chan.

Chan said, by enhancing Lahad Datu’s industrial landscape, he hopes Gamalux is not only shaping its own future but also contributing to Sabah’s economic resilience.

He said, this strategic decision underscores Gamalux’s commitment to driving positive change and fostering prosperity, setting a remarkable precedent for the industry and the region as a whole.

“I am looking forward to witnessing the continued success of Gamalux and the broader POIC initiative.

“Together, let us work together towards a prosperous and sustainable future for Sabah as a hub of sustainable economic development,” he added.

During his visit, Chan also visited the existing Solvent Extraction Plant (SEP) and Specialised Refinery Plant (SRP) at Gamalux Oils Sdn Bhd Sabah facility.

The Minister of Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship of Sabah, Datuk Phoong Jin Zhe was also present.

<https://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/233504/gamalux-oils-pushes-towards-circular-economy-minimising-waste-and-maximising-utility/>

Malaysian authorities raid convenience store selling ‘No Palm Oil’ ice cream

Malaysian authorities on May 2 raided a convenience store in Putrajaya for selling ice cream with “No Palm Oil” labelled on the plastic packaging.

According to the Free Malaysia Today (FMT) news site, Domestic Trade and Costs of Living Minister Armizan Mohd Ali said in a statement that the raid, which was sparked by a public complaint, saw the seizure of various types of ice cream products.

“All of the ice cream products, worth a total of RM897.90 (S\$255), were seized for further investigation,” he reportedly said.

Many ice cream products contain palm oil, which gives the confection its creamy texture.

In Malaysia, it is illegal to sell products with the “No Palm Oil” label which is seen to be discriminatory against products containing the widely used vegetable oil, an economic mainstay for Malaysia.

FMT reported Mr Armizan as saying that the case will be investigated under the Trade Descriptions (Prohibition Of Use Of Statement, Expression Or Indication) (Oil Palm Product And Palm Oil Goods) Regulations 2022.

“If convicted, the offender can be fined up to RM250,000 or imprisoned for a maximum of five years,” he said.

The regulation came into force on March 15, 2022.

Mr Armizan also reportedly said that according to enforcement statistics from March 15, 2022, to May 2, 2024, 5,057 inspections had been carried out nationwide on premises across the supply chain, with four cases recorded.

“Strict action will be taken against any importer, distributor or retailer that sells imported products which do not comply with the regulations,” he was quoted as saying by FMT.

“The offence covers statements or indicators that may discriminate against or call for the boycott of products or goods involving palm oil, the nation’s main commodity”.

According to local media, the Ministry of Plantations and Commodities said earlier in February that such labelling techniques give consumers the impression that palm oil is harmful to health.

Malaysia, the world’s second-largest producer of palm oil, is facing pressure from the European Union’s restrictions against deforestation.

According to AFP, the EU in 2023 introduced new rules that ban goods from deforested land, in a fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

Critics and government officials have called the measures discriminatory against Malaysia and neighbouring Indonesia, which is the world’s biggest palm oil producer.

According to an FMT report, Plantations and Commodities Minister Johari Abdul Ghani on April 26 called on the EU to show fairness and lend appropriate support, as Malaysia attempts to fulfil its sustainability goals.

In an interview with local media, Mr Johari said that palm oil producers in the country must abide by strict requirements in order to obtain the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification – one criterion of which is that there must be no deforestation activities – according to a New Straits Times (NST) report on April 23.

The report also states that 97 per cent of the total oil palms planted in Malaysia is MSPO certified.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysian-authorities-raid-convenience-store-selling-no-palm-oil-ice-cream>

ZBiz Exclusive | Inside Story of Palm Oil: Interview with Malaysia's Plantation Minister



Youtube (Zee Business): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J0ogRqn5Ns>

Practising human rights due diligence in the palm oil industry

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) defines HRDD as a process of identifying, preventing, mitigating, and accounting for any human rights violations.

Concerns over labour rights abuse in Malaysia's palm oil sector has put the industry under scrutiny in recent years. In 2022, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) found that eight out of every 1,000 workers in the palm oil plantation sector in Malaysia were subjected to forced labour.

One important solution to this is the application of human rights due diligence (HRDD), which the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) defines as a process of identifying, preventing, mitigating, and accounting for any human rights violations. It is used to assess labour practices within a company's own operations and throughout their supply chain.

In the palm oil industry, HRDD is applicable to upstream companies such as palm oil producers and mills and also to mid and downstream companies such as traders, manufacturers and retailers.

At the launch of the People-Positive Palm (P3) First Learning Series Workshop in March 2023, Malaysia's deputy prime minister Dato' Sri Fadillah Yusof reminded companies in the palm oil sector that HRDD should not be seen as a burden, but as an advantage that helps businesses lead by example.

The HRDD process consists of four components:

1. Identifying and assessing actual or potential human rights impacts: For example, conducting human rights risk assessments of own operations and third party suppliers.
2. Acting upon findings and embedding human rights considerations into existing processes and departments: For example, developing an action plan which includes a clear timeline, and specific actions that will respond to the human rights impacts identified.
3. Tracking the effectiveness of actions taken to understand if the human rights impacts are being addressed: For example, establishing grievance mechanisms or grievance tracking systems.
4. Communicating to stakeholders on the actions taken to address the risks and human rights impacts, and the effectiveness of human rights actions: For example, reporting to rights-holders how impacts have been addressed i.e., through sustainability reports.

When combined, these components guide a company's management in ensuring that they know and are able to show how the company is respecting human rights in practice.

To better understand how Malaysian palm oil players have implemented better human rights practices, we examine two companies in the sector: Sime Darby Plantation (SDP) and FGV Holdings.

Case study 1: Sime Darby Plantation (SDP)

SDP is the world's largest producer of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) and one of the founding members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. It has a presence in over 90 countries.

Q&A with Rashyid Redza Anwarudin, chief sustainability officer

In this interview, SDP's chief sustainability officer Rashyid Redza Anwarudin shares his views on key human rights issues and how the company addresses them.

Why are human rights such an important issue for the palm oil industry?

Historically, the palm oil industry has been one of the most scrutinised industries in the world when it comes to sustainability practices. In the past five years, there's been a lot more emphasis on the human rights and labour side of things. In Malaysia, the palm oil industry is the second largest employer after the government, so we need to make sure that employment is conducted in a responsible manner, through the implementation of fair labour practices. We also work in some of the most remote locations in the world, so we must respect the communities and the locations we operate in.

What are some human rights issues that are of major concern to SDP and the palm oil industry?

One key issue is forced labour, because the industry employs many migrant workers. We've spent the last three years enhancing our practices [to combat forced labour] and we want to replicate our Malaysian practices across our operations in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. Other issues are land rights and the health and safety of workers.

How does SDP address human rights issues?

We take a holistic approach towards HRDD. First, we have our human rights charter, which is a policy commitment from the very top. All our operations undergo internal audits and external audits. We have a dedicated team which conducts internal assessments based on the RSPO (the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) and MSPO (Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil) schemes. We have also made available various grievance channels and social dialogue platforms for our workers, and ensure they are aware of these channels and are comfortable using them.

More Information: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/practising-human-rights-due-diligence-in-the-palm-oil-industry/>

/ends.