

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Working Together With Leading Industry Players To Create The Best Environment For Malaysia's Glove Industry

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 November 2021 – Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin led the discussion on current developments in the rubber industry and challenges faced in the rubber glove sector with the Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB), Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association (MARGMA), and rubber glove industry captains on 15 November 2021.

The meeting was held in Malaysian Rubber Council (MRC) office in Q Sentral. Also present at the meeting were MRC Chief Executive Officer, Nor Hizwan bin Ahmad and MRC management. Among the issues discussed include workers shortage where the output capacity has been constrained since 2019 which led to an estimated lost of more than RM30 billion.

Foreign workers are key to ensuring the manufacturing sectors thrive in Malaysia. Hence, MARGMA reviewed its SEDEX Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) programmes and encouraged its members to actively participate in it for social compliance and sustainability related issues.

“The ministry is addressing negative issues related to labour by taking a proactive approach in tackling social compliance matters. On Worker’ Rights Charter, efforts have been made to comply to Act 446, which provides for minimum standards of housing and accommodation for workers,” said YB Datuk Hajah Zuraida, adding that MPIC is looking forward to engage with relevant international authorities to counteract the recent foreign labour allegations.

“In return, we hope this will encourage industry player to take care of their workers with the relevant industry practice and create a safe and healthy working environment,” she continued.

MPIC is also looking into efforts to enhance waste disposal management to continue to circulate natural resources to produce new products made from the recycled materials such as rubber gloves.

Working alongside MRC, Malaysian Rubber Board, MARGMA and fellow industry players, MPIC aims to build a reputable brand and further elevate Malaysian rubber industry globally.

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