

May natural rubber output up 9% from previous month

PETALING JAYA: Natural rubber (NR) production in May 2026 totalled 20,198 tonnes, an increase of 9.1% from 18,515 tonnes in the previous month, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) announced.

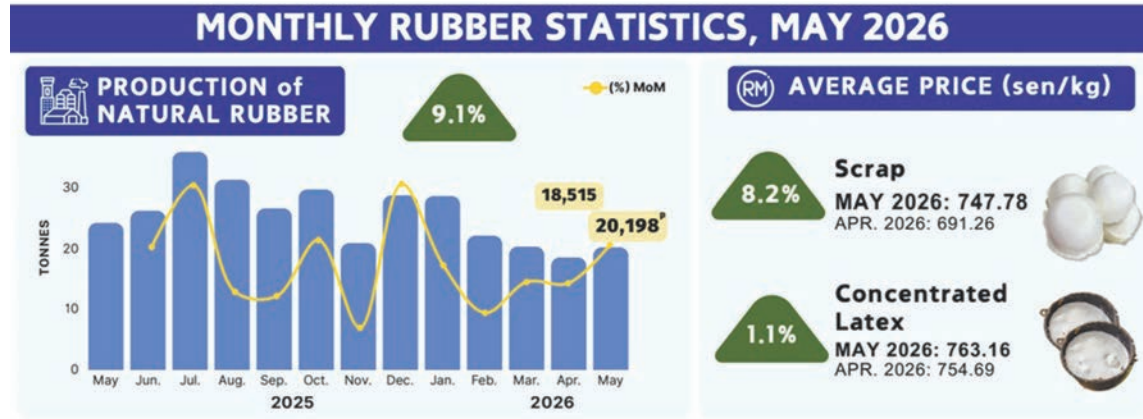
However, on an annual basis, the production of NR in May this year decreased by 16.7% (May 2025: 24,256 tonnes).

Production of NR in May was mainly contributed by smallholders (89.4%) compared to estates (10.6%). Total stocks of NR in May decreased by 6.2% to 122,658 tonnes compared to 130,698 tonnes in April.

Rubber processors factory contributed 77.8% of the stocks followed by rubber consumers factory (22%) and rubber estates (0.2%). Malaysia's NR exports amounted to 28,741 tonnes in May, down 23.1% from April's 37,360 tonnes.

China remained the main destination for NR exports, accounting for 42.7% of total exports in May, followed by Germany (14.6%), the United States (11.2%), Turkiye (4.3%) and India (3.8%).

The export performance was contributed by NR-based products



such as rubber gloves, tyres, tubes and rubber thread. Rubber gloves were the main exports of rubber-based products with a value of RM1.2 billion in May, a drop of 14.1% compared to April (RM1.4 billion).

Meanwhile, the average monthly price for concentrated latex was 763.16 sen per kg in May compared to 754.69 sen in April (+1.1%).

Scrap recorded an average monthly price 747.78 sen a kg in May compared to 691.26 sen in

April(+8.2%).

According to the Malaysia Rubber Board Digest published in May, the Kuala Lumpur rubber market maintained an upward trend throughout the month, supported by persistent concerns over tight natural rubber supply during the seasonal wintering period, elevated crude oil prices amid ongoing disruptions linked to the US-Iran conflict, and improving demand indicators from key manufacturing

and automotive markets.

Market sentiment was further underpinned by higher natural rubber prices in regional markets, expectations of tighter supply due to prolonged dry weather conditions in major producing countries, and concerns over potential El Niño impacts in the second half of the year.

Rising petroleum prices continued to increase synthetic rubber production costs, encouraging substitution towards natural rubber.