

Natural rubber production slips

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's natural rubber (NR) production decreased by 20.9% in April 2024 (21,325 tonnes) compared to the previous month (26,966 tonnes), said Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin.

He added that year-on-year comparison showed that the production of NR decreased by 9.1% (April 2023: 23,460 tonnes).

"Production of NR in April for Malaysia was mainly contributed by smallholders sector (89.1%) as compared to estates sector (10.9%)," he said.

Total stocks of NR in April decreased by 5.1% to 211,119 tonnes as compared to 222,455 tonnes in March. Rubber processors factories contributed 92.4% of the stocks followed by rubber consumers factories (7.5%) and rubber estates (0.1%).

Malaysia's exports of NR amounted to 47,796 tonnes in April, down 18.9% from March (58,965 tonnes). China remained as the main destination for NR exports which accounted for 44.8% of total exports in April followed by India (11.4%), Germany (8.0%), the United Arab Emirates (4.3%) and Pakistan (3.9%).

The export performance was contributed by products such as gloves, tyres, tubes and rubber thread. Gloves were the main exports of rubber-based products with a value of RM1.09 billion in April, a decrease of 3.8% compared to March (RM1.14 billion).

Analysis of the average monthly price showed that concentrated latex recorded a decrease of 0.9% (April: 733.58 sen per kg; March: 740.37 sen per kg) while scrap decreased by 0.1% (April: 639.62 sen per kg; March: 640.54 sen per kg).

Prices for all Standard Malaysian Rubber decreased between 0.3% and 0.9%.