Malaysia's natural rubber production in February drops to 21,705 tonnes

PETALING JAYA: Natural rubber (NR) production decreased by 24.1% in February 2026 (21,705 tonnes) compared to January 2026 (28,579 tonnes) said Chief Statistician Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin yesterday.

A year-on-year comparison showed that the production of NR decreased by 39.7% (February 2025: 36,005 tonnes). Production of NR in February 2026 for Malaysia was mainly contributed by smallholders (87%) compared to estates (13%).

Total stocks of NR in February 2026 increased by 3.3% to 139,985 tonnes compared to 135,534 tonnes in January 2026.

Rubber processors factory contributed 78.5% of the stocks followed by rubber consumers factory (21.4%) and rubber estates (0.1%). Exports of Malaysia's NR amounted to 33,897 tonnes in February 2026, down 20% against January 2026 (42,386 tonnes).

China remained as the main destination for NR exports which accounted 48.9% of total exports in February 2026 followed by Germany (17.8%), the United Arab Emirates (10.1%), Portugal (3.5%) and Brazil (3.2%).

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 RM900 million in February 2026, a decrease of 23.9% compared to January 2026 (RM1.3 billion).

Analysis of the average monthly price showed that concentrated latex recorded an increase of 1.8% (February 2026: 586.69 sen per kg; January 2026: 576.14 sen per kg) while scrap increased by 2.0% (February 2026: 631.13 sen per kg; January 2026: 618.72 sen per kg).

According to the Malaysia Rubber Board Digest, the Kuala Lumpur rubber market was mixed in February. Positive sentiment was supported by the year-on-year decline in Malaysia's natural rubber production, tightening global supply. Demand is expected to exceed supply again in 2026, providing underlying support. Stable economic signals, including steady growth expectations in China and rising crude oil prices, further bolstered market sentiment.

However, demand from the automotive sector remained soft as China's tyre production slowed during the Lunar New Year holiday and auto sales declined, including weaker electric vehicle sales.

In addition, trade uncertainties increased due to plans to raise import tariffs, while US-Iran geopolitical tensions added further downside pressure to the market.