



PRESS RELEASE

Sabah Softwoods Berhad's proactive measure to halt operations in one of its estate due to COVID-19 Virus.

Tawau, 23 March 2020

As of today, Sabah Softwoods Berhad (SSB) confirms that seven employees based at Bukit Batu Estate in Kalabakan had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus since the first positive case earlier on 14 March 2020. The first case was immediately referred to Hospital Tawau. SSB was informed by Hospital Tawau to quarantine any person who had first contact with the confirmed patient.

SSB Management had immediately instructed to lockdown the estate to halt operations and restrict movement of staff in order to stop any further spreading of the virus. The first case who is an imam (cleric), was an attendee at the religious gathering held at Masjid Sri Petaling last February.

Bukit Batu Estate personnel had immediately informed the direct family members and fellow co-workers which were believed to have come in close contact with the said employee since he came back from Kuala Lumpur. All twelve of them was advised to stay quarantined in the estate housing for screening by medical staff from Hospital Tawau.

Spouse of the imam was the first among the group tested positive and had to be escorted to Hospital Tawau on 17 March 2020. Upon positive result confirmation, another five employees were sent to Hospital Tawau yesterday, 22 March 2020, to receive further medical attention at Hospital Tawau. The rest of the group stays quarantined in the estate housing. A thorough disinfection sanitization of the affected estate housing areas and other common facilities in the estate such as mosque had been carried out by Hospital Tawau.



SSB has proactively taken all preventive measures as suggested in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Guidelines for all workers in the oil palm plantation and palm oil milling sectors to contain and break the spread the Covid-19 virus in accordance to MPOB official letter on 19th March 2020.

During this critical period, SSB Management and its Operational Managers are working closely with Kalabakan District Office and Ministry of Health (MOH) – Hospital Tawau (HT) & Kubota Health Clinic (KHC) to contain the spread of Covid-19.

SSB takes this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all the doctors, nurses and hospital staff for their sacrifice and untiring selfless services that they render to everyone.

- i. 20 March 2020 – SSB Management has voluntarily contributed 5 units of blood pressure monitors, 2 units of computers and food items for the purpose of assisting medical frontliners in relation to COVID-19 screening.
- ii. 23-24 March 2020 – SSB Management also provides assistance of donation-in-kind comprising of daily food necessities (i.e. rice, cooking oil, eggs, sugar & bottled water) for all households in Bukit Batu Estate with 183 families in total to support and overcome the shortage of food supply experienced in Kalabakan area.
- iii. 24 March 2020 – SSB Management has contributed an amount of RM 5,000 donation in cash for the primary purpose of assisting the frontliners in securing PPE and essential items.

Special thanks also goes to all the frontliners who are actively serving the state and the country to safeguard the publics' wellbeing and doing their utmost to contain the spread of the virus. We wish them well and their contribution and sacrifice will always be remembered.