

Press Release

TPL Denies Kidnapping Allegations

Medan, July 24, 2024 - PT Toba Pulp Lestari Tbk strongly denies the information circulating on social media regarding the alleged kidnapping of 6 community members. The company states that this information is untrue.

Based on information gathered by the company and official statements from a press conference held by the Simalungun Resort Police on July 22, 2024, it has been confirmed that 5 suspects have been arrested for their involvement in violent acts resulting in casualties.

"Based on the information we obtained from the police press conference, we affirm that the reports of kidnapping are entirely false and misleading," emphasized Anwar Lawden SH, Director and Corporate Secretary of PT Toba Pulp Lestari Tbk.

As explained in the press conference, a criminal act involving violence and assault against an individual named Samuel Sinaga took place. This incident was reported to the police, who subsequently apprehended the suspects on July 22, 2024.

"We also emphasize that the information alleging that TPL mobilized 50 individuals using 2 security vehicles and a Colt Diesel truck during the incident is entirely false and misleading," added Anwar Lawden SH.

"We are currently investigating whether the dissemination of false and misleading information has incited unwarranted anger from irresponsible individuals, leading to incidents of arson at our Mess facility, damage to the Internet Tower, and destruction of CCTV cameras. Consequently, we urge specific parties to refrain from spreading false information and attempting to mislead public opinion. In response, we will take necessary legal actions," Anwar asserted.

It is crucial to clarify that this incident is a criminal matter under investigation and prosecution by the authorities. The company urges all parties to respect the applicable legal processes.

"In conducting our operational activities, the company operates professionally and sustainably in accordance with laws and regulations, referencing the Forest Utilization Business Permit (PBPH) SK. 493/Kpts-II/1992 dated June 1, 1992 Jo. SK. 1487/Menlhk/Setjen/HPL.0/12/2021 dated December 31, 2021," stated Anwar.

The company also contributes positively to the economy and welfare of the community through its operational activities and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs. Approximately 80% of TPL employees are local residents from the operational areas of the company.

The company respects the presence of indigenous communities throughout its operational areas and is committed to fostering open dialogue to find peaceful solutions to any social issues without causing harm to any party.

"Regarding indigenous community issues in TPL's operational areas, the company continues to engage in dialogue with relevant parties to find mutually beneficial solutions through partnership approaches," explained Anwar.

TPL also hopes for government assurance regarding the continuity of investment permits, forestry permits, and operational permits for the company. Additionally, they seek assistance in mediating conflicts to achieve win-win solutions between the company and the community, as well as enforcement of the law against criminal perpetrators.

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