



PT. Toba Pulp Lestari Tbk.

Office : Uniplaza, East Tower, 3rd Floor
Jl. Letjend Haryono MT No. A-1 Medan 20231
Tel : +62 61 453 2088
Fax : +62 61 453 0967
Mill : Desa Pangombusan, Kecamatan Parmaksian,
Kabupaten Toba
Tel : +62 632 734 6000, +62 632 734 6001
Fax : +62 632 734 6006
Sumatera Utara - Indonesia

Response to Rumors Spread by a Local NGO

The rumor spread by a local NGO claiming that PT Toba Pulp Lestari, Tbk (TPL) blocked or closed access to livelihood areas for the community in Dusun Nagasaribu Siharbangan, Pohan Jae Village, Siborong-borong District, North Tapanuli Regency is false. TPL has only taken measures to ensure safety in the area during ongoing operational activities, while still allowing access for the community to tap benzoin resin within the TPL concession area, but not in the APL (State-Owned Forest Area).

Currently, the company is conducting eucalyptus planting activities within its concession area. To prevent workplace accidents involving non-workers due to the operation of heavy machinery, the company is monitoring activities in the area in relation to the movement of heavy equipment and operational vehicles.

The company is also aware, based on various sources, of the establishment of the customary forest status of Nagasaribu Siharbangan in Pohan Jae Village, Siborong-borong District, North Tapanuli Regency, which directly borders the company's PBPH (Business Use Forestry Permit) area. However, to ensure its legitimacy under Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry (Permen LHK) No. 9 of 2021 on Social Forestry Management, Article 109 and Article 111 require the Customary Law Community (MHA) to prepare an RKS (Work Plan) and RKT (Annual Work Plan). Additionally, Article 101 mandates boundary delineation. However, the NGO assisting the MHA has refused to fulfill these legal obligations, despite receiving two official letters from the Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Agency (PSKL) for the Sumatra Region on October 7, 2024, and December 9, 2024.

The company's concession area, which is outside the MHA territory and directly borders the company's PBPH area, remains obstructed from operation. This group, allegedly supported by the NGO, has attempted to halt company operations. TPL affirms that the current eucalyptus planting activities are located outside the MHA Nagasaribu Siharbangan area. Based on SK 340, the claimed community area is not part of the land currently being worked on by TPL.

Due to these disruptions, TPL is currently unable to carry out planting and harvesting activities for raw material supply to the factory, resulting in the factory ceasing production for five months due to a shortage of wood supply.

For clarification, TPL is conducting harvesting and planting operations across its concession areas in accordance with the General Work Plan (RKU) and Annual Work Plan (RKT) approved by the government. These operational activities are carried out to meet the factory's raw material supply needs. Before commencing operations, TPL has conducted socialization with relevant stakeholders.

The company legally operates based on government-issued permits to secure a long-term raw material supply. Additionally, TPL proactively supports local communities through its Community Development (CD)/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, focusing on developing village entrepreneurship businesses and enhancing sustainable agricultural systems.

Through this approach, local communities not only improve agricultural land productivity but also receive guidance to optimize harvests, access market opportunities, and increase household income. This program demonstrates the company's commitment to empowering local communities to become economically independent and develop skills that can be passed down to future generations.

TPL continues to strengthen partnership models to ensure the surrounding communities benefit positively from the company's presence. The company remains committed to prioritizing open dialogue for peaceful solutions to social issues, avoiding actions that could be detrimental to any party.

Violent Actions by Protesters Disrupt TPL Operations

Previously, dozens of individuals claiming to represent the indigenous community of Nagasaribu Siharbanggan entered the workers' camp and security post, forcing their way into the TPL concession area in the Habinsaran Sector, Compartment E, in Dusun Nagasaribu, Pohan Jae Village, Siborong-borong District, North Tapanuli Regency. Their goal was to stop the eucalyptus planting activities being carried out by workers since Monday morning (January 20).

The protesters then engaged in a physical altercation with security personnel, causing one security officer, Agung Manurung, to fall, after which he was beaten and trampled by the crowd, resulting in injuries and breathing difficulties. The incident is currently under police investigation.

The violent protesters also vandalized the workers' and security posts at the eucalyptus planting site. In addition, they threw stones at passing company vehicles and erected roadblocks made of logs and large rocks in the middle of the road leading to the planting site. Injured victims from this violent attack have been taken to the hospital for further medical treatment.