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Operational Disruption at TPL Aek Nauli Sector

A group of people claiming to represent the indigenous community of Ompu Umbak Siallagan once again entered the concession area of PT Toba Pulp Lestari, Tbk (TPL) in the Aek Nauli Sector, Compartment 017 Dolok Parmonangan, Dolok Panribuan District, Simalungun Regency, at approximately 16:00 WIB on Wednesday afternoon (January 29).

The group, allegedly accompanied by individuals from a local NGO, suddenly arrived at the TPL concession, forced their way in, and shouted demands for workers to stop the operation of heavy equipment preparing land for the sixth cycle of eucalyptus planting. Notably, there were no disturbances during the previous five planting cycles. During the protest, one of the individuals threatened to uproot the eucalyptus plants if the company proceeded with planting. To prevent unwanted incidents and ensure safety, security personnel immediately requested the group to leave the site.

TPL is currently conducting operational activities, including harvesting and planting, across its concession areas in accordance with the General Work Plan (RKU) and the Annual Work Plan (RKT) approved by the government. These operational activities are essential to meet the factory's raw material supply needs. Prior to commencing these activities, TPL has engaged in stakeholder outreach. The company operates legally based on government-issued permits to ensure long-term raw material availability.

TPL regrets this incident and urges that any claims over concession areas be addressed through peaceful means, following established legal mechanisms and procedures. The company encourages partnership models with all community elements to foster harmonious coexistence, as demonstrated by TPL's collaborations with Forest Farmer Groups (KTH) in several concession areas, such as in Nagahulambu and Pondok Buluh, Dolok Panribuan District, Simalungun Regency. Due to recent disturbances, TPL has been unable to conduct optimal planting and harvesting activities, resulting in the factory halting production for the past five months due to a shortage of wood raw material supply.

The company also proactively supports local communities through its Community Development (CD)/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, focusing on village entrepreneurship development and sustainable agricultural system improvements. Notable examples of successful

initiatives include the chili harvest from an intercropping program with eucalyptus plants by the Dolok Parmonangan Forest Farmer Group (KTH) and the cassava harvest by KTH Saborang Mulana in 2024. Through these programs, local communities not only enhance agricultural land productivity but also receive guidance to optimize harvests, expand market opportunities, and increase household income. This approach reflects the company's commitment to empowering local communities to achieve economic independence and develop skills that can be passed down to future generations.

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