

TPL Complies with the Law and Promotes Partnership Models

Medan, August 29, 2024 – PT Toba Pulp Lestari Tbk (TPL) reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing peaceful resolutions in addressing any issues and challenges in the field. In a press conference held today, TPL also clarified various news reports circulating regarding the criminal case involving Sorbatua Siallagan.

TPL respects the legal process and the verdict issued by the Panel of Judges of the Simalungun District Court against the defendant, Sorbatua Siallagan, and the company strongly denies allegations of criminalization in this case. This matter is unrelated to indigenous community issues, and the company consistently respects indigenous communities. TPL upholds humanitarian values and always prioritizes peaceful efforts in resolving any arising issues.

TPL's Director and Corporate Secretary, Anwar Lawden SH, stated that the report against Sorbatua Siallagan to law enforcement authorities was a last resort after repeated attempts at dialogue, warnings, and preventive measures were ignored. The company had made multiple efforts through dialogue, warnings, reprimands, and advice to prevent unauthorized burning and logging in forest areas, as such actions are illegal.

"We deeply regret this situation, but filing this report is an obligation that the company must fulfill to protect and safeguard the concession granted by the government from all forms of encroachment, destruction, and forest and land fires. If the company does not report such violations, it may be accused of negligence or inaction, which could result in sanctions, including license revocation," explained Anwar.

In carrying out its operations, the company adheres to professional and sustainable practices in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, referring to the Business Licensing for Forest Utilization (PBPH) permit No. 493/Kpts-II/1992 dated June 1, 1992, and No. 1487/Menlhk/Setjen/HPL.0/12/2021 dated December 31, 2021.

The company respects the existence of indigenous communities across its operational areas and is committed to fostering open dialogue to seek peaceful solutions to social issues without engaging in actions that may harm any parties. Regarding indigenous community issues within TPL's operational areas, the company continues to engage in dialogue with various stakeholders to find the best solutions through mutually beneficial partnership models.

In line with these efforts, TPL has developed various forestry partnership programs aimed at resolving tenure issues within the company's concession areas. To date, 10 Community Forestry Groups (KTH) have partnered with the company, successfully resolving tenure conflicts in a peaceful and mutually beneficial manner. Ten Cooperation Agreement Documents (NKK) have been registered, with three of them receiving official Recognition and Protection Decrees for Forestry Partnerships (KULIN KK) from the government.

On this occasion, TPL also reaffirmed that the company always operates professionally and in full compliance with prevailing laws and regulations. "We hope that the government will continue to support the sustainability of TPL's investment permits, forestry licenses, and operations while also assisting in mediating conflict resolution to achieve solutions that benefit all parties," concluded Anwar.