



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEMONISING LEGAL PLASTICS RECYCLING HURTS MALAYSIA'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Hasty and misinformed statements recently on plastics and recycling from various parties are damaging Malaysia's push to develop a circular economy and a comprehensive solution to plastics pollution.

Malaysia's multinational and domestic manufacturers are facing tougher sustainability targets in export markets where consumers and governments are putting the circular economy into practice. Legitimate recyclers support the Malaysian economy by providing recycled plastics as raw material to sectors such as electrical and electronics, automotive, furniture, food and construction.

Malaysia herself must also invest in developing a circular economy, to eliminate waste and pollution. Without the recycling sector, Malaysia will not be able to develop into a sustainable economy and create new value to benefit society and the environment.

The amended Basel Convention, which came into force on 1 January 2021, now regulates transboundary movements of *sampah plastik* from export to import. *Sampah plastik* cannot be shipped here from exporting countries without the prior written consent of the Department of Environment (DOE) which is Malaysia's competent authority for notification.

Numerous regulatory and enforcement agencies are coordinating their actions to prevent the entry of *sampah plastik* under these new regulations. These include the Customs Department, National Solid Waste Management (JPSPN), port authorities, and Solid Waste Management Agency (SWCorp) among others.

In addition, the DOE is informed of imports of clean, homogenous plastic scrap material which are properly imported by the legitimate recyclers. We have even accepted the imposition of the RM20 per tonne levy to help defray the cost of enforcement including port inspections of containers. This levy is in addition to 18 new stringent rules and regulations which we must comply with.

The Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA) and the Malaysian Plastics Recyclers Association (MPRA) have continued to support and assist the government in efforts to crack down on unscrupulous and illegal operators, and to protect the environment.

Demonising the legal plastics recycling industry perpetuates misconceptions and distortions which hurt legitimate businesses and affect the livelihoods of law-abiding, hard-working people. Indiscriminately calling for blanket bans delays and obstructs the development of a circular economy and sustainability in Malaysia.

Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association

Malaysian Plastics Recyclers Association

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-Ends-



MEDIA STATEMENT

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About MPMA

The Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA), established in 1967, is a progressive trade association providing leadership and quality service to its members and the plastics industry with due care to the environment. MPMA is the official voice of the Malaysian plastics industry, representing its members and the industry in Government interaction, spearheading the plastics industry's growth and providing the platforms to assist members to be globally competitive. One of MPMA's current focus is on plastics and sustainability whereby activities involve communication, education and public awareness. MPMA currently has about 800 members comprising Ordinary members, which represent about 60 percent of plastics manufacturers in the country and account for 80 percent of the country's total production of plastics products.

About MPRA

The Malaysian Plastics Recyclers Association (MPRA) was formed in 2014 to spur the growth of the plastics recycling industry, enhance integrity and engage with Government and regulators. MPRA aims to keep members informed of industry developments in order to stay globally competitive amid the recent growth of the plastics recycling industry and the increasingly sophisticated operating environment. MPRA plays a key role in building a sustainable platform for the plastics recycling industry and supports sustainable practices and education.

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