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Call for more efforts in fighting anti-palm oil lobby

KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 22): The fight against the anti-palm oil lobby continues even as crude palm oil fetches historic good prices in the world commodity market.

The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) requested the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) to intensify its efforts in providing a greater narrative to fight the campaigns against palm oil.

In a report in The Edge Markets of Oct 22, the Secretary-general Datuk Ravi Muthayah said palm oil producing countries must not be complacent and be caught off guard by competitors.

CPO futures have crossed record high of over RM5000 mark in recent trading.

“Upholding sustainability premised on SDGs (sustainable development goals) is crucial and CPOPC would undertake more offensive approaches by comparing palm oil with other vegetable oils,” he said in a statement in conjunction with CPOPC’s 22nd Senior Officials Meeting.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ravi and the Indonesian Deputy Minister for Food and Agribusiness, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Dr Musdhalifah Machmud.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of CPOPC observer countries, namely Colombia, Ghana, Honduras and Papua New Guinea.

Ravi said Malaysia supports the adoption of the Global Framework

of Principles for Sustainable Palm Oil as a guiding principle to incoming member countries and as an example to other edible oil crops.

“To make our efforts and collaboration more impactful, meaningful and effective, incoming members should expedite the process of joining CPOPC,” he added.

Meanwhile, Musdhalifah said CPOPC needs to give serious attention and formulate a more effective strategy for palm oil producing countries to address challenges arising from campaigns against sustainable palm oil.

She said she is deeply concerned about the increasingly intense campaigns and the issuance of various policies and regulations

that hamper the production and trade of palm oil, especially in the European Union.

“I welcomed the progress made by the scientific committee as science-based studies and research should be further promoted in countering the negative campaigns against sustainable palm oil,” she said.

Musdhalifah said the growing demand for palm oil and the general upward trend of palm oil is a positive trend but producing countries anticipate the possibility of cycle crude palm oil (CPO) price through increasing domestic consumption as part of the demand management tools.

“The management of sustainable palm oil price could be attained by the implementation of biodiesel programme,” she added.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

