



Press Release

(For immediate release)

STA's action and proposals to address the destruction of height barriers along the Bakun and Murum public roads

In the State Task Force on Illegal Logging Meeting No. 2/2015 held on 23 October 2015 chaired by YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, STA was appointed to address the destruction of height barriers installed along the Bakun and Murum public roads by "phantom lorries". With that appointment, STA initiated a ground study on the affected areas and discussed with the timber licensees and contractors using the Bakun and Murum public roads. All these timber licensees and contractors are very keen to clear the allegations that the timber companies are responsible for the destruction of the height barriers.

YB Datuk Amar called a follow-up meeting on 18 December 2015 at Wisma Sumber Alam Kuching. Pemanca Datuk Wong Kie Yik, Chairman of STA led a delegation of 10 from STA's working team to attend the follow-up meeting. Dato Henry Lau, Honorary Secretary of STA presented the finding of the ground study together with the action taken by STA. Dato Henry Lau also proposed a couple of ways forward to address the imminent issue at hand including but not limited to installation of electronic surveillance system at the proposed height barriers and some of the proposed height barriers to be manned by the relevant authorities round the clock.

The meeting adopted one of the proposals with some modifications and further discussion with the relevant authorities is required in order to come out with functional solution on the ground. At the meeting, Pemanca Datuk Wong also presented the "Commitment Statement", whereby the affected licensees and contractors voluntarily undertake, amongst others to fully restore the height barrier if damaged by them.

Also present in the meeting were Puan Sherrina Hussaini, Acting Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Datu Haji Sarudu Haji Hoklai, General Manager of Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Mr Wong Ting Chung, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd. and Tuan Haji Said Bin Gapar, Deputy Director of Forest Department Sarawak.

Sarawak Timber Association

18 December 2015