

Push Cabinet to Pave "Sidewalk" Mixed with "Natural Rubber Latex" in 77 Provinces Across the Country

Mr. Grisada made a plan to push the Cabinet for the "green light" to command the municipalities in 77 provinces to pave sidewalk mixed with natural rubber latex across the country at the end of this month. Regarding rubber road construction, firstly the Provincial Administration Organization (PAO) needs to set up a meeting of the PAO Council to pass the budget for the One Kilometer One Village Project. The implementation is expected to commence in the early February with an assessed budget of not less than 40 billion Baht. The Director of Rubber Authority of Thailand, Phitsanulok branch advised separately that there is not enough fresh latex supply during the closing process of rubber tapping.

Today (January 11, 2019) Mr. Grisada Boonrach - Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) disclosed to "Thansettakit Newspaper" that MOAC by the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT) invited representatives from the Local Administrative Organizations (77 provinces), the Provincial Administration Organizations, Technician Division Director, Pricing Division of the Comptroller General's Department, and Auditing Units such as Office of the Auditor General of Thailand (OAG), Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission to attend the meeting with Design Divisions- the Ministry of Transportation, the Department of Highways and the Department of Rural Roads. MOAC used this stage to clarify the implementation of Para Soil Cement Road Construction, One Kilometer One Village Project across the country and to disseminate the construction manual as well. It was expected in this meeting that all participants deem to thoroughly comprehend road model and construction methods. Moreover, road construction will be implemented in February due to the fact that total budget belongs to the PAOs and needs to obtain the approval of the PAO Council. Then the construction can be immediately implemented with the accumulated amount of not less than 40 billion Baht.

As for the sidewalks and sport fields made from natural rubber latex and certified by the Department of Industrial Works having Thai Industrial Standards, the ROAT Committee (Rubber Board of Thailand) is going to adopt a resolution to promulgate them at the end of this month. After that, MOAC will propose to the Cabinet meeting requesting the Local Administrative Organization, Municipality, Provincial Administration Organization in Bangkok and 77 provinces to pave the sidewalks mixed with natural rubber latex with a view to increasing more rubber consumption in the country.

At the same time, MOAC informed the meeting that the Cabinet had already approved Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives to provide a "Special Loan Scheme" for the Rubber Cooperatives that are strong and capable of collecting and processing fresh latex into cup lump and then exporting to other countries, i.e. Bothong Rubber Fund Cooperative, Chonburi Province or Rubber Cooperative in Betong District, Yala Province. Basically, this means to increase the number of exporting business instead of just 4 - 5 large companies.

Meanwhile, Mr. Phanat Phaechana - Director of Rubber Authority of Thailand, Phitsanulok branch disclosed whether road construction in February is too slow or not. I believe that rubber tapping in many provinces have already been stopped, then we will lose the opportunity. However, at this moment, Phitsanulok province still has stock of fresh latex, so in case that any Local Administrative Organization is running off fresh latex supply, we are ready to deliver it immediately.

Source: Thansettakij Newspaper on 11 January 2019.