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## Timber exports to exceed RM22.3bil

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government is optimistic that timber exports this year could exceed RM22.3bil recorded last year due to increasing demand for local timber and timber products.

Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok said that for the January-May period, timber product exports showed a positive growth trend, rising by 2.3% to RM9.1bil as compared with the

same period in 2018.

“Last year, the timber industry contributed 1.6% to the national gross domestic product, or 2.2% of the country’s total export.

“To remain competitive, I hope Malaysian timber-based product manufacturers will continue to offer product differentiation to meet the new customers’ demand and lifestyle,” she said after officiating at the Malaysian Timber

Conference 2019 here.

She said that through innovation and technological advancements, timber-based product manufacturers could offer better products and expand the market.

“As we are now in the digitalised era or Industry 4.0, it is imperative for the industry to recognise the importance of investing in technologies to enhance productivity,” she added. — Bernama