



MTC also met industry players in Melaka on 6 May 2021 and a dialogue session was held with YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin and Exco of Agriculture, Livestock, Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Datuk Norhizam Hassan Baktee, who represented the Chief Minister of Melaka, YAB Datuk Seri Utama Dr Sulaiman Md Ali. Also present were Tuan Haji Mad Zaidi, Tuan Haji Mazli and the Senior Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities' Timber, Tobacco and Kenaf Industries Development Division Mr Pubadi Govindasamy.

In conjunction with the visit to Melaka, YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin and a delegation from MTC comprising Tuan Haji Mazli and Tuan Muhtar paid a courtesy call on the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka Tun Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam. Present on special invitation was the Belgian Ambassador HE Mr. Pascal H. Gregoire.

A similar session was held in Seberang Jaya, Penang, on 7 May 2021 where YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin was present for a dialogue with the industry members. Also present was Deputy Minister of MPIC YB Datuk Willie Mongin, Tuan Haji Mad Zaidi, Tuan Haji Mazli, Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (FPDSB) Chairman Tuan Haji Mohd Sobri Osman, Tuan Muhtar and the newly-elected Penang Furniture & Timber Industry Association (PFTIA) President Mr Mah Kong Yeow.

The session in Kuala Lumpur was attended by more than 120 industry members while more than 60 stakeholders attended the respective state meets which were followed by the breaking of fast.

MTC Roadshow 2021 not only provides briefings on the latest market developments but also highlights efforts put in place by the Council to strengthen the Malaysian timber industry.

# MTC'S RM28.3M COMPETITIVE EDGE

**KUALA LUMPUR (3 MAY 2021):** As part of its annual briefing sessions with stakeholders, MTC kicked off its Roadshow 2021 at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton here, today.

The event was followed by a dialogue session with the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali. Also present was Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities YB Dato' Sri Dr Wee Jeck Seng, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities Deputy Secretary-General Tuan Haji Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli, MTC Chairman Tuan Haji Mazli Zakuan Mohd Noor, MTC Board of Trustees and MTC CEO Tuan Muhtar Suhaili.

YB Dato' Dr Mohd Khairuddin said the timber industry, which is the third largest commodity sub-sector after oil palm and rubber, recorded RM3.78 billion in exports in the first two months of the year, down by 3.3 percent compared with the corresponding period in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said MTC has been very proactive in dealing with the shortcomings brought on by the pandemic and had introduced many programmes to help industry members through this difficult time.

The Council has allocated a development fund of RM28.3 million to boost the competitiveness of the timber industry.

"MTC launched several new initiatives such as the Young Entrepreneur Society programme to facilitate the transfer of leadership from the founders to their successors. The Engineer Placement and Internship in the Timber Industry Programme and TimbeReality are also new programmes under the fund that will benefit industry players," said the minister.

Tuan Haji Mazli said the Council has realigned its plans to meet the industry's needs which includes the much-needed Import Assistance Programme or IAP.

"MTC will continue to identify business opportunities for our stakeholders to ensure that Malaysia maintains its position in the global marketplace," said Tuan Haji Mazli.

Under the IAP, RM4.6 million was channeled to 93 Malaysian companies to assist with the importation of raw materials as well as planting materials to encourage the production of higher value-added products for both the domestic and export markets.

