



9 July 2019

July 9, 2019 --- General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Thailand's Prime Minister and the head the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), announced at the Government House that the roadbuilding budget for over 400 roads in 76 Provinces, which may use nearly 20,000 tons of rubber as an alternative material to build roads, was approved in order to combat the rubber price slumps and will be implemented this year and the next year by the Military Development Unit and Thai Army Engineer Unit.



The relevant government agencies are urged to increase the uses of rubber not only for manufacturing rubber pillows and rubber mattresses for the military or prison facilities use but also for repairing or renovating sport complex facilities to bring up rubber consumption rate in the country. Furthermore, the government may initiate to have rubber sheet processing plants, which will turn natural rubber into rubber sheets, to enhance rubber processing in the plantation areas. This would create significant added value to all rubber product.

Regarding the drop-in palm oil price, the root cause of its problem must be addressed first before taking further action. The remedial measures that the government is engaging now is to encourage private sectors to use B20 fuel more to enlarge the scale of palm oil production overall. So far there are more than 900 gas stations offering B20 fuel to the public countrywide and it becomes cheaper

than gasohol in the market. As a result, the popularity of gasohol may decline. Apart from that, both B20 fuel and gasohol are also used in public transportation widely. Balance point between those fuel prices need to be established by the government. Gas station business owners need to be prepared to cooperate with the government on related policies.

In addition, the buying price of the palm oil in our country is currently higher than our neighboring countries' which is at 19 baht per kg versus 15 baht per kg. Relevant government agencies are reminded to be cautious of palm oil and coconut smuggling from our neighbors and Thai people must not engage in illegal smuggling into the country because it will damage the price balance in our domestic market, said General Prayut.

Source: khaosod (<http://www.nationtv.tv/main/content/378724278/?ago=>)

Translated by: Office of Agricultural Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, DC