

**State Government Asked To Extend Royalty Exemption Alienated Land**  
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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- The state governments have been asked to extend the exemption on royalty payment on the extraction of rubber wood, oil palm trunks and coconut trunks from alienated land up to Dec 31, 2016, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said this had been decided at the 17th meeting of the National Land Council here today which was chaired by him and also attended by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

"The exemption of royalty payment is in line with the government policy to promote industries based on rubber wood, and composites of oil palm and coconut," he said in a statement released after the meeting.

The almost two-hour meeting also agreed that the state authorities reviewed the procedures on the approval of air space permit for structures such as roofing eaves; awnings and balconies.

He said the procedure was issued under Section 75A of the National Land Code in the strata scheme development for the purpose of strata title application so that a new work process as well as a review of the annual payment rate for air space for stratified building was adopted.

"The process for application and approval of permits for air space can be reduced by implementing the new work process," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said the meeting today also unanimously wanted the implementation of the Annual Allowable Cut (CTT) to be always monitored, studied and improved in line with the current changes.

"This is to enable the implementation of CTT for every Malaysia Plan period to be always practical," he said, adding that the CTT was one of the main requirements in the certification of forest management.

Ahmad Zahid said that through Sustainable Forest Management and the forest management certification process, national timber could continue to be traded and accepted in the international market.

The meeting today also agreed that the operations of the Wood Based Industry would officially assist the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department to monitor and carry out enforcement more efficiently and effectively and subsequently help in boosting the national economy, he said.

"As the wood processing industry has existed for so long, there are wood based industries operating on agricultural land and cannot be licensed by the state authorities as they do not fulfil the conditions of land use," he said.

The meeting also took note of the amendments to the minerals enactment to fulfill the requirement of the Minamata Convention on Mercury as one of the treaties on international environment to improve governance on hazardous materials for the protection of human beings and the environment.

Also discussed were the decision on the evaluation star rating system for land administration for the year 2014 whereby the Besut Land Office; the Tanah Merah Land and District Office and the Kota Setar Land Office had been awarded the Five-Star rating.

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