



SAMLING PLYWOOD (MIRI) SDN BHD

Registration No. 198401000696 (113217-A)

TREEONE MEGAPELLET SDN BHD

(formerly known as **SAMLING PLYWOOD (BARAMAS) SDN BHD**)

Registration No. 198701005044 (163715-P)

8th November 2022

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- To : (1) Ms. Mary Lawlor - Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
(2) Ms. Fernanda Hopenhaym - Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
(3) Mr. Jose Fransisco Cali Tzay - Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
(4) [REDACTED] - Chief Special Procedures Branch

c/o United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures
Palais Des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Dear Sirs,

COMMUNICATION FROM UN HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES

We refer to the communication from the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Special Procedures posted on 2nd November 2022 entitled 'Malaysia: alleged SLAPP against human rights organisation SAVE Rivers (joint communication)'.

We are disappointed to note your statement that as at the time of the posting, Samling has yet to send a reply to the communication from the UN dated 29th August 2022.

The chronology of the communications exchanged between the UN and Samling must be set right. Samling received the communication from UN regarding the allegations of SLAPP, presumably from SAVE Rivers, on 29th August 2022. Samling's detailed response dated 15th September 2022 to the UN was emailed on 20th September 2022 and received by your office on the 26th September 2022, which response was acknowledged receipt by the UN on the same day. The statement by UN that '*at the time of writing, Samling Group has not sent a reply to the communication*' made on 2nd November 2022 is clearly erroneous.

We strongly urge that you uphold the universal principles that you were mandated with by the UN that those accused of wrongdoings must be given the opportunity to be heard and the allegations then properly investigated.

Failure to correct this error may give rise to unwelcome implications that your esteemed office is merely paying lip service to such principles. The supposed grievances by those who claim to be marginalised and oppressed must be properly addressed in a fair and justiciable manner.

The posting has further damaged our reputation and standing. We insist that this error be remedied immediately, including an acknowledgement of the error and for stating that 'at the time of writing, Samling Group has not sent a reply to the communication' and a retraction of this erroneous statement from the post.

For completion, we must once again strenuously deny the allegation that Samling's claim is intended to be or amounts to a strategic lawsuit against public participation, also known as SLAPP, as alleged. We have provided a detailed explanation to the UN dated 26th September 2022 on the allegation and must now insist on Samling's response being made available.

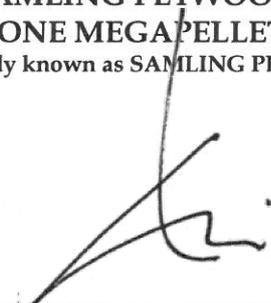
Your failure to do the needful can be regarded as another tactical manoeuvre to pressure Samling to drop its claim over the contents of and publications of certain articles on SAVE Rivers that alleged, amongst others, that the certification issued by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) in favour of Samling was allegedly done without compliance with due processes and thereby allegedly in violation of the rights of the indigenous communities. The allegations persisted even after the governing body in question, MTCC, issued a clarification dated 13th August 2020 and titled "*Commentary: Processes involved in Granting Certification Under the MTCS*", clarifying that Samling had indeed satisfactorily fulfilled the requisite certification requirements.

We intend to vigorously defend our reputation. Meanwhile, as you will appreciate, we will have to reserve all our rights.

Thank you.

Your faithfully,

**For SAMLING PLYWOOD (MIRI) SDN. BHD.
TREEONE MEGA PELLET SDN. BHD.**
(formerly known as SAMLING PLYWOOD (BARAMAS) SDN BHD)



LAWRENCE CHIA KEE LOONG
Chief Executive Officer



HO YAM KUAN
Chief Operating Officer