

# FGV, MTUC and ILO Malaysia Collaborate to Raise Awareness on Forced Labour and Child Labour



**BENTONG, 14 JUNE 2022** - FGV Holdings Berhad (FGV), the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Malaysia co-organised a workshop to promote greater awareness and understanding on the issue of forced labour and child labour among FGV's plantation workers.



The workshop, held at FGV's Krau Complex in Bentong, Pahang, was facilitated by MTUC's representatives and participated by approximately 60 workers and 30 management personnel from FGV's surrounding plantations. Also present were Encik Mohd Nazrul Izam Mansor, FGV's Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO), Encik Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani, MTUC's Deputy President, Encik Kamarul Baharin Mansor, MTUC's Secretary-General, and Mr. Josh Hong, ILO Malaysia's National Project Coordinator.

The awareness session was a joint effort by FGV, MTUC and ILO Malaysia to support the global and national agenda against forced labour and child labour and to contribute to the implementation of Malaysia's National Action Plan on Forced Labour (2021-2025) and the National Pledge against Child Labour. This activity is conducted under the Advancing Workers' Rights in the Palm Oil Sector in Indonesia and Malaysia Project.

FGV Group Chief Executive Officer, Encik Nazrul Izam Mansor said, "FGV is fully committed to playing its part in the fight against forced labour and child labour. We firmly believe that these topics are of such importance they deserve long-term focus and commitment. We know that resolving them will require a multi-stakeholder collaboration that brings together all relevant stakeholders including businesses, government agencies and civil society organisations."

He also mentioned that the awareness session is part of a range of programmes and initiatives by FGV to enhance its labour practices and to uphold labour standards. This is a

key part of FGV's declared commitment to sustainability and to the human rights agenda.



*Encik Nazrul Izam Mansor is delivering an opening remarks at the awareness session.*

MTUC Secretary-General, Encik Kamarul Baharin Mansor said, "Eliminating forced labour and child labour can only be achieved if there is enough awareness and understanding of the subject among all quarters particularly workers, children, parents and enforcement agencies."

He added that with awareness, workers and children would be in a better position to protect themselves from becoming victims of forced labour and child labour.



*From left: Encik Kamarul Baharin Mansor, MTUC's Secretary General with Encik Nazrul Izam Mansor, Group Chief Executive Officer of FGV.*

The interactive session, which was attended by migrant workers from Bangladesh, India and Indonesia was conducted in the Bengali, Hindi and Malay languages for better comprehension, and focused on the 11 ILO Indicators of Forced Labour as well as measures to prevent and address child labour.

Mr. Josh Hong of ILO Malaysia highlighted the importance of freedom of association and collective bargaining as a way to empower the workers, and reiterated the ILO's continued support for cross-sector collaboration to end forced labour and child labour in Malaysia.

FGV, MTUC and ILO Malaysia acknowledge that awareness raising is one of many measures that need to be undertaken to effectively address forced labour and child labour, and that awareness raising must be accompanied by collective action on other aspects including policy and legal reforms, advocacy and enforcement, among other things.

FGV, MTUC and ILO Malaysia reiterate their continued commitment to play a meaningful role in these efforts.

**End**