

Speech Text by:

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A very good afternoon to Mr Darrel Webber, the Secretary General of RSPO; Members of the Media and guests.

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to announce that the internationally positioned roundtable meeting on sustainable palm oil, the RT9 will be held here in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah this year. The RT is the world's largest sustainable palm oil conference organized by the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil, in short the RSPO. Last year, the RT8, attracted over 800 delegates from 30 countries around the globe.

This is very significant as we are seeing more and more internationally acclaimed platforms and events hosted here, in the land below the wind. Sabah represents one of the largest states in Malaysia with its diverse natural resources and cultural heritage. Sabah also seems to be the host and grounds for numerous international knowledge based and bio diversity related assemblies, which is certainly gaining world stature. We are indeed very proud of this.

With regards to sustainable practices within the palm oil sector, we are very proud that Malaysia is the number one producer of certified sustainable palm oil in the world, contributing as much as 50%. Sabah contributes significantly to approximately over 40% of the CSPO production within Malaysia. It stamps our devotion as a nation to stay ahead of the game, in the international arena.

I am grateful towards the RSPO for spearheading the entire palm oil supply chain from upstream to downstream in guiding and motivating world class best practices in protecting our dwelling and our people for the future of all.

Sabah and part of Sarawak is a natural hub for oil palm. We recognize that there is a huge potential to tap into. It is precisely initiatives such as the RSPO that allow for Sabah to attract investors to develop our resources, introduce technology and up-skill the current workforce with best practices.

With this ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to announce that RT9 will happen in Sabah this November. We should play an active role in encouraging participants from all around the world to attend and be involved in an event such as the RT9 that inspires collaboration and cooperation across numerous sectors, geographical boundaries and intellectual bandwidth.

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