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State to charge royalties on timber products from plantations

BY RUBEN SARIO



Mannan (left) planting a tree at the Bukit Piton Forest Reserve. He says that Sabah was exporting 25,000 cubic metres of tree plantation timber products annually. —filepic

KOTA KINABALU: Revenues from sawn and processed timber royalties are once again going to figure prominently in Sabah's revenues.

The state is imposing royalties on sawn and processed timber sourced from tree plantations from June, state Forestry Department Chief Conservator Datuk Sam Mannan said.

He said royalty from tree plantation sawn timber was initially expected to amount to at least RM500,000 for this year and increase to RM1mil by 2018.

“We are currently exporting as much as 25,000 cubic metres of tree plantation timber products annually,” Mannan added.

He said apart from sawn timber, other processed products from tree plantations included veneer and plywood.

“Producers prefer to export processed goods instead logs to avoid the problem of rotting upon reaching the destinations,” Mannan added.



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