

Malaysia: Rubber market seen to see softer performance this week

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian rubber market will see softer performance this week on persistent weak demand due to absence of fresh catalyst from local and global markets, dealers said. “Continued wary on the euro zone growth and weak economic performance in the US would limit the demand for the commodities globally,” they said. However, market players may find some support as the world’s biggest rubber user country, China, is expected to increase its consumption, which would grow to 7.4 million metric tonnes this year from 6.9 million tonnes a year ago. One dealer said prices are also expected to continue to follow the movements on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange, the global trend setter for rubber prices. Throughout the week, the rubber market saw choppy trading and ended the trading day on Friday on a weaker note. On a week-to-week basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board’s official physical price for tyre-grade SMR 20 fell 17 sen to 1,000.5 sen a kg while latex-in-bulk rose eight sen to 717.5 sen a kg. The unofficial sellers’ closing price for tyre-grade SMR 20 lost 17 sen to 998 sen a kg and latex-in-bulk added 8.5 sen to 716.5 sen a kg. Bernama