

Malaysia cooperating with Thailand, Indonesia to stabilise rubber price

KUALA NERANG: The government is stepping up cooperation with fellow leading rubber producers Thailand and Indonesia to stabilise the commodity's price in the world market.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the cooperation is vital as the rubber price may fall with over production and consumers may switch to synthetic rubber if the price is too high.

“Although the Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry is leading the cooperation with Thailand and Indonesia, I want all agencies under my ministry to help.

“We have to be more innovative by producing more things from natural rubber to ensure widespread use,” he told reporters after handing over keys to 91 house owners of Village Reconstruction Project Phase 2 Felcra Bukit Tampoi here, today.

Shafie also said the RM4.5 billion allocation to the ministry in Budget 2013 budget would be used to implement infrastructure projects in villages and rural areas.

It would be used for construction of roads (RM1.2 billion), water supply (RM703 million), electricity supply (RM961 million) and the Housing Aid Programme (RM189 million).

On the RM244 million allocation to Felcra in Budget 2013, he said it shows that the Barisan Nasional government is concerned and aware that the rural community and settlers need help. — BERNAMA