

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**YB DATUK SERI MAH SIEW KEONG  
MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AND COMMODITIES**

### **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION ON OIL PALM MECHANISATION (ICOPM) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF PALM OIL INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA**

**24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017, WEDNESDAY**

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The Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities today announced the extension of deadline for the submission of entries for the International Competition on Oil Palm Mechanisation (ICOPM). This competition is held in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the palm oil industry in Malaysia.

2. ICOPM is aimed at inviting innovative and new ideas towards producing practical, cost effective and field-ready innovations in oil palm mechanisation. In addition, this is also aimed at reducing dependency on labour and lowering production cost.

3. In conjunction with the centennial celebration of palm oil industry in Malaysia this year, a special edition of ICOPM was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

4. The competition will focus on harvesting technology, loose fruit collection technology and fresh fruit bunch (FFB) evacuation technology. This competition offers a grand prize of USD1 million for the overall winner, whose invention shows significant increase in productivity within a one-year of field evaluation.

5. The initial deadline for online submission was on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Following this deadline, more than 50 submissions have been received and the ministry has been receiving request from interested participants to extend the submission dateline.

6. It is believed that there are many inventors out there who are still interested to enter this competition. With this regards, the ministry is pleased to announce that the deadline for this year's ICOPM is now extended to **30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.**

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**Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**