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RHB AND MEOA COLLABORATE TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA'S PLANTATION SECTOR

Two-year collaboration aims to support the sector's transition through financing solutions, industry engagement and technical expertise

Kuala Lumpur – RHB Bank Berhad ("RHB" or "the Group") has entered a strategic partnership with the Malaysian Estate Owners' Association ("MEOA") to support the plantation sector's transition towards more sustainable, resilient and productive operations. The collaboration will bring together financing, industry engagement and technical expertise to support investments in areas such as oil palm replanting, renewable energy, energy efficiency, decarbonisation, workers' welfare and circular economy initiatives across the plantation value chain.

MEOA will serve as a practical industry sounding board, contributing estate-level evidence and member perspectives so that financing and transition initiatives reflect differences in scale, operating conditions and implementation readiness.

The partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") between RHB and MEOA. The exchange of the MoU was witnessed by YB Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Plantation and Commodities, during MEOA's 95th Anniversary Gala Dinner 2026.

Angus Salim Amran, Group Chief Sustainability Officer of RHB Bank Berhad, said, "As sustainability expectations evolve, the plantation sector will be required to balance productivity with environmental integrity. This transition requires purposeful integration between financial institutions and industry to further a robust sustainability ecosystem. Through this pioneering RHB and MEOA partnership, we aspire to collectively facilitate practical solutions and unlock opportunities to support long-term business resilience. RHB is committed to being a steadfast and impactful partner for customers as they progress on their sustainability pathway, towards realising Malaysia's broader net zero ambitions."

MEOA's 163 members collectively represent approximately 1.2 million hectares of oil palm and rubber estates across Malaysia, underscoring the significant role the industry plays in supporting economic growth, employment and the nation's agricultural exports.

Under the collaboration, RHB and MEOA will work together to advance initiatives including the replanting of ageing or less productive oil palm areas, renewable energy projects such as solar photovoltaic systems and biogas facilities, energy-efficient machinery and equipment, methane capture projects, improvements to workers' housing and welfare, and circular economy initiatives that create value from plantation by-products and biomass resources. This collaboration will also support the industry's sustainability transition through workshops and industry engagement, helping members understand sustainable and transition finance, respond to evolving regulatory requirements and manage climate-related risks.

Ahmad Zachry Anifah Aman, President of MEOA, said, "Estate owners make decisions over long horizons. This collaboration allows MEOA to bring our members' operating experience to RHB early, while helping members assess practical financing and implementation options. Its value will be measured by whether it

leads to workable solutions that strengthen productivity, resilience and competitiveness across the plantation sector."

The collaboration supports RHB's broader sustainable finance agenda under its PROGRESS27 strategy. To date, the Group has mobilised RM71 billion in Sustainable Financial Services towards its RM90 billion target by 2027.