



# Kenyataan Akhbar

## Press Release

### IN RESPONSE TO THE SUN ARTICLE “CERTIFICATION NEEDED FOR BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS” ON 16 MARCH 2021

20 March 2021, Saturday

BANGI – Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) and its agency Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGTC) among others is committed to address plastic pollution in line with Malaysia’s Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastic 2018 - 2030. This Roadmap underlines Malaysia’s strategy involving all stakeholders to effectively and holistically address the issue of single use plastic pollution.

In furthering this commitment, KASA and MGTC are currently working on developing a Circular Economy Roadmap with the support of World Bank as well as carrying out relevant projects as solutions to create a new plastic economy. These initiatives involve multi-stakeholders and has attracted international support. One such project is the SEA Circular project. This multi-country regional project involving Malaysia is an initiative from the UN Environment Programme and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to solve marine plastic pollution at source.

With regards to biodegradable plastics, SIRIM has two eco-labelling schemes: the SIRIM ECO 001-2018 (Degradable and Compostable Plastic Packaging) and SIRIM ECO 009-2016 (Biomass-Based for Food Contact) to certify biodegradable plastics. The ECO 001-2018 is an upgraded version of the certification which has omitted oxo and photo degradable plastics. Hence plastic bags which claim to be biodegradable have to have this label.

KASA is working closely with all States and local governments in taking measures to address Single Use Plastics. Most States have in place market based mechanisms such as user pay principle where a charge is imposed when consumers require plastic bags. In Federal Territory, they have imposed the use of biodegradable bags that comply to SIRIM’s certification. While we do acknowledge there may be irresponsible parties who misuse the eco labels, but the respective agencies are stepping up their enforcement. In fact, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) has also come up with a grant to facilitate research and development of a rapid testing kit to identify non-biodegradable plastic bags.

It is also important for us to take a whole of nation approach in addressing single use plastic pollution by lifestyle changes. We need everyone to be responsible for their consumption choices and use alternative options such as bringing your own bag while shopping.

In encouraging buyers' pattern in supporting to green lifestyle, KASA and MGTC advises Malaysians to check MyHIJAU Mark and Directory to ensure that the products they are buying are acknowledged as green products and services. Consumers can visit [www.myhijau.my](http://www.myhijau.my) to check the products to ensure its label claim.

MyHIJAU is an initiative by the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGTC) to promote the sourcing and purchasing of green products and services in Malaysia. Its aim is to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly practices in the country while catalysing the growth of Malaysia's green economy.

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### **About MGTC**

Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGTC) is an agency of the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) mandated to drive the country in the scope of Green Growth, Climate Change Mitigation and Green Lifestyle.

Three national policies, particularly the National Green Technology Policy (NGTP), the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the Green Technology Master Plan (GTMP), regulates MGTC's role as a catalyst for green economic growth. Powered by this policy documents, MGTC will assist the nation in increasing GDP from green technology by RM 100 billion and generating 230,000 green job opportunities by 2030.

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