



## **Media Release**

For Immediate Release

# **SAMLING PLYWOOD MILLS' "PEOPLE SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME"**

**30 July 2021, Miri Sarawak** - Covid-19 pandemic which has been raging for the past 18 months has seen countless people losing their jobs, but has also led to an outpouring of charitable acts by the Malaysian people and the corporate sector.

As members of the public, non-government organisations and corporations band together to bring food relief to individuals and families stricken by the prolonged loss of income, long-term sustainability programmes become more urgent to provide long-term relief to these families.

With this in mind, Samling Plywood Miri (SPM), a member of Samling Group, decided that apart from providing food baskets, it would also take its job recruitment drive to a higher level by targeting groups of individuals who had either raised the white flag or who had lost their jobs recently.

"We decided that instead of using the old method of recruitment, we would place the job recruitment flyers at areas set up as food banks as well as at supermarkets, grocery stores and hypermarkets.

"We also distributed the flyers to religious leaders because we know many people who need help often turn to religious organisations. Additionally, we also used social media to put out the flyers.

"In this way, we were hoping to reach out to those truly in need of a job and those who may have started to lose hope of ever finding another job," said Jason Chieng, Samling Group Senior HR Manager.

Altogether SPM were looking to hire 100 people for the post of production assistant, but received over 250 applications within a week. 84 of the applicants have been offered jobs after undergoing an interview and a tour of the SPM factory. The company is still receiving applications for the remaining positions.

"The first batch of successful recruits reported for work on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Most of them had lost their previous jobs and had been having a lot of difficulty finding new jobs. Another batch of recruits reported for duty on 26 July with a third batch expected to report in August.

SPM is a member of the Samling Group of companies which has been operating in the district of Miri for over 50 years, and counts more than 6,000 people in its workforce.

"SPM feels very privileged to have been able to help some of these families with jobs that will provide them long term security. Due to the success of this first drive, we will be carrying out similar recruitment drives for our other mills in Miri and Bintulu.

"It is one thing to give a family a food basket, but we think we need to go beyond this and provide long-term sustenance for these families through the provision of stable jobs and incomes," said Chieng.



One of the successful applicants, Dora Anyi Jok, said she had been looking for a job for over 5 months, after being retrenched from her previous job at an electronics factory in Johor Bahru.

“I returned to Miri to attend to some family matters and then the pandemic struck and I lost my job in Johor. It’s been very difficult because I am a single mother. So I’m very grateful and thankful that I have finally been offered this job with SPM,” said the 53-year-old Dora who is from the Kayan tribe.