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### Natural rubber production up in December

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's natural rubber (NR) production rose by 8.9% to 30,556 tonnes in December 2022 from 28,048 tonnes in November 2022, according to the Statistics Department.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said December's production was mainly contributed by the smallholders sector (86.7%) compared with the estates sector (13.3%).

However, he said on a year-on-year basis, NR production decreased by 26.7% versus 41,690 tonnes in December 2021.

Mohd Uzir said the total stocks of NR in December last year increased by 4.1% to 201,359 tonnes compared to 193,396 tonnes in the month before.

He said the rubber processors factory category contributed 90.9% of the stocks, followed by rubber consumers factory (9%) and rubber estates (0.1%).

"Exports of Malaysia's NR amounted to 48,797 tonnes in December 2022, 4.2% lower when compared with November 2022 (50,927 tonnes). China remained as the main destination for NR exports which accounted for 47.6% of total exports followed by Germany (4.4%), the United States (4.2%), Iran (4.1%) and Brazil (2.6%)," he said. — Bernama