



PT **Astra Agro** Lestari Tbk

Jakarta, February 8th, 2024

Dear Ms Mathews

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the allegation against PT AAL as in the media report "Friends of the Earth groups denounce recent case of intimidation by Astra Agro Lestari, call for immediate de-escalation", 8 December 2023, Friends of the Earth.

The report highlighted an allegation of intimidation by AAL against the women in the video shared by WALHI, who called on the company to return their land. The report also raised again the allegation by Friends of the Earth in March 2022 against three subsidiaries of AAL: PT LTT, PT Mamuang and PT ANA, regarding the grabbing and human rights abuses.

We take these allegations extremely seriously and would like to make clear that we do not tolerate coercion or intimidation.

The allegation of intimidation was responded to immediately as in the following statement on our website:

<https://www.astra-agro.co.id/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Response-To-Allegations-Of-Intimidation-And-Coercive-Action-By-AAL-Security-Staff-Against-Community-Members-In-Rio-Mukti-Village-Sulawesi.pdf>

We then carefully investigated all the points in the allegation and conducted an in-depth review of the overall issue of the events in the village of Rio Mukti Sulawesi. It became immediately clear that there was a misunderstanding about the purpose of the response visit by our community support team – two women and one man – to meet with and discuss the issues face-to-face. It is important to note that this meeting came about at the specific invitation of the village head with a view to listen to, understand and resolve the grievances raised. The visit was also to straighten out a rumour circulating in the community from unknown sources that the Company would arrest the people involved in the video. Clearly, this is not something we would ever countenance, let alone have the authority to do.

AAL deeply regrets any concern caused by this and is working with the impacted individuals, employees and third parties to ensure that the purpose or intent of community engagement is clearly articulated both in this instance and going forward.

Underpinning these events are the land claims made by the two individuals concerned. These can not be separated from the case of Sinar Rio Jaya group in Rio Mukti Village that has been comprehensively discussed in the recently completed independent verification carried out at length by Econsantara, into allegations originally laid by FoE against three of AAL subsidiaries: PT Mamuang, PT LTT, and PT ANA.

PT **Astra Agro** Lestari Tbk

Jl. Pulo Ayang Raya Blok OR-1 Phone : (021) 4616555 (Hunting)
Kawasan Industri Pulogadung astra-agro.co.id
Jakarta Timur, Jakarta 13930



PT **Astra Agro** Lestari Tbk

In response to the allegation, we engaged an independent third party EcoNusantara, to carry out comprehensive verification on each allegation. The appointment of ENS was through consultation with some of AAL's key stakeholders. AAL has also engaged Robertsbridge Group (RBG) to advise on stakeholder communication. The statement can be seen here:

https://www.astra-agro.co.id/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Joint-Statement-AAL-EcoNusantara_Appointment-of-an-Independent-Third-Party.pdf

The Final report was distributed to AAL's key stakeholders, including FoE and Walhi, on October 31st, 2023, and made available on the AAL website on November 27th 2023 (<https://www.astra-agro.co.id/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-10-30-ENS-Final-Report-AAL-Cases-in-C-Sulawesi-ENG.pdf>). Two days after the launching of the final report, response from stakeholders was made available on AAL's website in the form of questions and answers (<https://www.astra-agro.co.id/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/STAKEHOLDERS-RESPONSES-TO-ECONUSANTARAS-INDEPENDENT-REPORT.pdf>).

We and Econusantara are now in the process of putting together a thorough action plan as a follow-up to the recommendations in the report. These will take place this year 2024, and the aforementioned recent claims will be included in that process.

Our company believes in the principles of openness and transparency, and we are working to resolve issues as soon as possible. To ensure the swiftness, widespread acceptability and robustness of the action plan, we have consistently invited civil society to input.

Yours sincerely,

Sustainability Team
PT Astra Agro Lestari Tbk