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HIGHLIGHTS

DEMONSTRATION OF SOAP MAKING FROM USED OIL DURING THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR RAISING AWARENESS ON OPEN BURNING

Written by: ChM. Bebe Norlita Mohamed, Ts. Mohd Hafizz Wondi, Dr. Nurul Hidayah Mohd Khairlani, Nurul Syahirah Mansur, and Muhamad Nasarudin Sulaiman

On 19 August 2025, a soap-making demonstration using waste cooking oil was held in conjunction with the Community Program for Raising Awareness on Open Burning under the Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystem in Malaysia (SMPEM) Project 2025. The main objective of this session was to educate community members on how to convert used cooking oil, commonly discarded after use, into a valuable and eco-friendly household product. The demonstration was well-received and highlighted an innovative way of promoting sustainability through practical, everyday practices.

The basic ingredients and tools required to make soap, such as water, lye (sodium hydroxide), and used cooking oil, were prepared for visitors. It was also explained that optional fragrances or natural additives could be incorporated. The facilitators guided participants through a step-by-step process, which included filtering the oil to remove impurities, carefully combining ingredients with precise measurements, and pouring the soap mixture into molds. In order for participants to completely comprehend the chemical process involved, safety precautions were also explained, especially the necessity of wearing gloves when handling lye. The facilitators further provided guidance on how to personalize the soap with natural ingredients like essential oils, colorants, and herbs. By the end of the session, participants had produced semi-solid soap bars, which required 36 hours of drying and three to four weeks of curing before they could be used for regular cleaning.

The arrival of YB Royston bin Valentine, ADUN N.57 Tellian, as the invited guest, greatly enhanced the session. He showed a keen interest in the process of transforming used cooking oil into a useful product and actively participated in the demonstration. The session proved both inspirational and beneficial to all attendees. Several participants expressed their intention to try the process at home, while others even considered turning it into a small business venture. In conclusion, the session successfully promoted sustainable and self-sufficient living by demonstrating how simple and cost-effective it can be to recycle household waste.



Facilitators preparing materials for the soap-making demonstration and YB Royston bin Valentine participating in the soap-making process



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