

# Kelampayan tree has great potential for industries in the state

August 18, 2017, Friday Jane Moh, reporters@theborneopost.com



*(From left) Len Talif, Abang Johari, and Wong inspect a Kelampayan tree.*

SIBU: Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg wants to pursue the planting of Kelampayan trees for industries in the state.

Speaking at a press conference during a visit to Ta Ann's Naman Estate near here yesterday, he said there's a possibility that Kelampayan trees (indigenous fast growing tree species) would become industrial trees.

"I come here solely to see the trees because the CEO of Ta Ann Datuk Wong Kuo Hea was telling me that he wanted to do a research and development (R&D) on the trees and plant them.

"Now, I have seen it. Seeing is believing and I want to pursue this; this is an industrial forest," he said.

Based on his observation, the trees could grow well along the sides of roads rather than in the forest. The reason, he figured, was because minerals are more compact along the road.

He suggested that the Kelampayan trees be planted using new method since they can grow well along the roads, including roads within oil palm plantations.

“Thirty-two trees can be planted along roads within one hectare of plantation estate.

“In an oil palm plantation you can have two crops – oil palm and Kelampayan trees, and that will make companies sustainable,” he said. He hoped that other companies could do the same as Ta Ann as the way forward.

Abang Johari said Sarawak timber industry is based on such methodology and a new way of planting trees. He said there were many things that could be done and hoped that other companies could do the same.

Assistant Minister of Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment Datu Len Talif Salleh and Ta Ann Group executive chairman Datuk Amar Abdul Hamed Sepawi were also present at the press conference.