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K&K Advocates



www.kk-advocates.com

For further information
please contact:

office@kk-advocates.com

K&K Advocates - Intellectual
Property. KMO Building, 5th floor,
Suite 502 Jl. Kyai Maja No. 1,
Kebayoran Baru RT03/RW08,
Jakarta Selatan DKI Jakarta 12120

Tel: +62 21 29023331

Fax: +62 21 29023107

REJANG LEBONG COFFEE IS BEING REGISTERED TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

JAKARTA: Robusta coffee from Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu is submitted for registration with Directorate General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Law and Human Rights to obtain recognition from a government as a geographical indication product.

The application submitted by the Community Activists for the Protection of Geographical Indications of Robusta Coffee in Rejang Lebong Regency (MP2IG-KRRL) is still in the examination process in order to obtain a certificate as a proof of government's recognition towards Rejang Lebong Robusta coffee.

Recognition from Directorate General of Intellectual Property as a product of geographical indication of Rejang Lebong Robusta coffee is very important for the people who are members of MP2IG-KRRL. The recognition shows that Rejang Lebong coffee has a unique taste, as it represents the pride of the local community.

Since a long time ago, Bengkulu province has become one of the best coffee producers in Indonesia. Many regencies producing Robusta and Arabica coffee in Bengkulu, such as Kepahiang Regency, Rejang Lebong Regency, Seluma, Bengkulu Tengah, South Bengkulu and North Bengkulu.

Rejang Lebong is one of the largest coffee producing regions in Bengkulu. Most of the people live from planting Robusta coffee. The production in this area is mostly marketed to various regions including Lampung and Java.

True coffee connoisseurs will prefer to enjoy Rejang Lebong coffee in its original form, which is black coffee. For them, Bengkulu coffee is famous for its chocolate tones, and the acidity is relatively high. According to the application document for the geographical indication product, the area of Rejang Lebong Robusta coffee is

located in the highlands of the Bukit Barisan mountain range, most of which are at altitudes between 500 meters and 1,000 meters above sea level (m a.s.l.).

The area that is part of Bukit Barisan mountain range generally has a hill-dominated soil relief, making it very suitable for Robusta coffee cultivation. The Robusta coffee plantation area in Rejang Lebong Regency has two seasons, the dry season and the rainy season like any other tropical regions.

The average rainfall in the last 10 years was 1,303 to 3,137 mm/year, with an average of 1,783 mm/year. This area also has a cool climate with an average temperature of at least 20°C and a maximum of 25°C, with relative humidity at 85.5% average.

The type of soil in Rejang Lebong Regency generally consists of Andosol, Regosol, Podsol, Latasol and Alluvial with medium soil texture, clay and slightly sandy with a pH of 4.5-7.5. Given the considerations above, the Rejang Lebong Robusta coffee farmers community intends to improve competitiveness and added value from their cultivation to gain recognition for the quality and uniqueness of the product.

The journey of the local community to propose Robusta coffee as a geographical indication product began in June 2018. The Community Activists for the Protection of Geographical Indications of Robusta Coffee in Rejang Lebong Regency (MP2IG-KRRL) has been formally established based on the Decree of the Regent of Rejang Lebong of the Community Protection of Geographical Indications of Robusta Coffee in Rejang Lebong Regency.

The name of the Geographical Indication proposed to be registered at the Directorate General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Law and Human Rights is Robusta Coffee Rejang Lebong Bengkulu, in which the processing is carried out wet process dry grinding as well as dry process ungrounded and skin cracked.

Protection of Geographical Indications refers to ose coffee (rice coffee or green coffee), sangria coffee (roasted coffee), and ground coffee, which is produced from Robusta Coffee Lebong Rejang Bengkulu.

Regional governments across Indonesia are now continuing to explore the potential of geographical indication products to be registered with the Directorate General of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in order to increase the spread of the regional economy.



Geographical Indication is a sign that shows the area of origin of an item and/or product due to geographical environment factors including natural factors, human factors or a combination of these two factors which gives reputation, quality, and certain characteristics to the goods and/or products produced.

The Directorate General of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights has declared 2018 as the year of geographical indication, so that every regional office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights is asked to proactively assist a community in protecting Geographical Indications.

From the policy stated above, there is a tendency to increase the number of geographical indication applications from year to year. In 2017, there were 15 applications of geographical indications, whereas in 2018, the number was increasing to 33 applications. It can be seen there is an increase of more than 100%.

The Director General of Intellectual Property, Freddy Harris, once said that Indonesia has a variety of natural resources, one of each has its own characteristics, and it can be registered as geographical indication products as long as it fulfill the requirements stated by the law.

The product of geographical indications, said the Director General, is not only related to natural resources, but also crafts and industrial products. “Everything can be submitted to the Directorate General of Intellectual Property to get legal protection,” he said. (su)