



Jakarta, April 24th, 2026

AAL Announces Agreement in the Mediation Process Related to the Incident at PT SAL in Jambi

As previously announced (17th April 2026) a mediation process was swiftly put in place to resolve the incident between indigenous peoples and security teams at the company's subsidiary PT SAL in Jambi.

This took place at the Main Hall of the Sarolangun Regent's Office. The outcome, agreed by both parties, commits AAL to compensation for injury to some members of the Orang Rimba people and for this indigenous community not to harvest or take fresh fruit palm bunches from PT SAL plantations. It also places a ban on the carrying of firearms by the community. Violations will be subject to legal process.

Susila Darma Wati, VP of Sustainability at Astra Agro Lestari, commented "This was a highly regrettable incident, but in the event, it was resolved by the quick intervention of the government."

For years now, AAL has conducted a programme of community support for the Orang Rimba, based on a detailed study conducted in 2017 by Daemeter Consulting. This led to a major and continuing programme of educational, health and welfare provision, housing and economic empowerment.

The programme of support specifically for the Orang Rimba people is sufficiently extensive to be worthy of a detailed explanation.

1. Provision of Basic Living Needs & Food Security

- Since 2018, the company has provided basic food staples (groceries and rice) to the present total of 331 households.
- The Suluh Rimbo (Agricultural Learning Center) was established to provide farming training. It began in 2018 with the Sikar Group (1 hectare) and expanded in 2019 to the Air Panas Group (2.04 hectares). By 2024, Suluh Rimbo Air Panas had obtained official institutional status under the name Rimba Tani.

2. Education Services Program

- PT SAL provides PKBM (Community Learning Center) Muara Cendekia, which oversees 13 schools (early childhood education, Package A, B, C) and a collaborative program with SKB (Learning Studio). Currently, 421 Orang Rimba children receive educational services ranging from early childhood education to university level.
- By 2025, PT SAL had enrolled five students in higher education, spread across Bogor Polytechnic for Agricultural Development, University of Jambi, Jambi Health University (three graduates, two still studying), and one student in police academy training (graduate).
- The Sekolah Bejelon program, in place since 2019, transports teachers to mobile locations. A transit home, Rumah Singgah Madu Rimbo, is provided so children can attend school while their parents are in melangun (the ritual mourning period).

3. Health Services Program

- There are 6 dedicated integrated health posts (posyandu) for the Orang Rimba: Astera, Raflesia, Mawar, Punt Kayu II, Nurul Islam, and Tunas Bangsa.
- The company also provides a dedicated ambulance for hospital referrals.



4. **Community Economic Development Program**

- Chicken Farming: Successfully implemented in the Mete, Saidun, and Ngepas groups.
- Softshell Turtle Ponds: For the Meriau and Nyerak groups; the turtles are sold profitably.
- Catfish Farming: For the Tarib and Ngrip groups; the Tarib Group has achieved great success by adding self-funded ponds.
- Jernang (Dragon's Blood Resin) Cultivation: In collaboration with the Bukit Dua Belas National Park Authority (TNBD) for long-term benefits.

5. **Population Administration Access Assistance Program (ID Cards)**

Initiated in 2022. By end of 2025, a total of 898 Orang Rimba individuals have obtained official ID cards in Sarolangun and Merangin Regencies, opening access to social assistance such as Social Cash Assistance (BST) for 182 families, Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) for 236 families, and the Family Hope Program (PKH) for 84 families, as well as health and education services through the Indonesian Health Card (KIS) for 331 families and the Indonesia Smart Card (KIP) for 40 families.

6. **Special Program for the Meriau Group**

The Meriau Group, previously nomadic, has settled within the Bukit Dua Belas National Park since 2019, now having permanent homes and farming livelihoods. Since 2024, the company has held collaborative meetings with TNBD, resulting in the formation of a cooperative called "Berkah Rimba Bukit Duabelas" to strengthen their bargaining position for non-timber forest products.