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# 'Sugar APs unfair'

**LEVEL PLAYING FIELD:** MSM wants government to stop issuing new import permits

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**M**SM Malaysia Holdings Bhd has called on the government to stop issuing new approved permits (APs) for sugar import.

This is one of the measures proposed by MSM to the International Trade and Industry Ministry to create a level playing field for the country's sugar industry.

MSM president and group chief executive officer Datuk Sheikh Awab Sheikh Abod said the move would hopefully curb rampant sugar smuggling from neigh-

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**Datuk Sheikh Awab Sheikh Abod**  
MSM president



bouring countries and dumping activities by those companies with the APs.

"In return, MSM is willing to lower its price and sacrifice its profit margin because the issuance of APs is not fair to the sugar refining industry," he told Business Times recently.

The government abolished the sugar subsidy last year and as a result, sugar price

increased to RM2,680 a tonne from RM2,340.

Subsequently, cheaper refined and raw sugar were smuggled into the country from Thailand, and the matter was further aggravated by the issuance of sugar import permits to selected firms.

"We are working closely with the ministry to come up with a win-win solution, which can hopefully be found in a few weeks."

Sheikh Awab said the APs are unfair to firms like MSM, which have invested billions of ringgit to develop the country's sugar infrastructure, such as refineries, trading firms and chartered logistics providers.

MSM is the sugar arm of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd and is the country's largest refiner with a market share of almost 60 per cent.