



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES		
TARIKH	:	23/4/2021	MUKA SURAT	: 5
JABATAN	:	KeTSA / BMG / JMG		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin being briefed on an exhibit by Minerals and Geoscience Department director-general Hisamuddin Termidi (right) at the launch of the National Mineral Industry Transformation Plan framework 2021-2030 in Putrajaya yesterday. With them is Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah (second from right). BERNAMA PIC

INCREASED DEMAND

NST 23/4/2021 m/s 5

BOOST FOR MINERAL INDUSTRY

Transformation Plan will help to achieve sustainable development, says Muhyiddin

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

THE National Mineral Industry Transformation Plan framework 2021-2030 will drive the industry to achieve sustainable and holistic development, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said this was in line with the government's vision to see the mineral industry contributing RM29 billion to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

"The contribution from the mineral industry to the economy now is relatively small, with RM9.9 billion, or 0.7 per cent, of GDP in 2019.

"The country's mineral import was valued at RM90.96 billion and export at RM59.40 billion, with more than 15,275 jobs, but with imbalance in the downstream, middle and upstream,"

he said at the launch of the plan yesterday.

The plan, he said, would give new hope to the huge untapped industry, which would contribute to the people's wellbeing and economy if developed responsibly and sustainably.

Muhyiddin said continuous engagement with stakeholders, experts and the public could provide constructive views to achieve this.

He said demand for minerals had increased exponentially, in tandem with the Fourth Industrial Revolution 4.0, with future technologies, including those fighting climate change, dependent on them.

Among them were solar panels, windmill, electric car and energy storage, he added.

"Hence, Malaysia, being a country that is abundant with minerals, must be wise in positioning itself and take the opportunity to develop our resources.

"However, while we acknowledge the importance and benefits of the mineral industry to the socio-economy, the government will not allow uncontrolled industry activities."

He said managing natural resources without damaging the environment and lives was a common challenge worldwide.

He said the National Mineral Industry Transformation Plan

would be used as a reference for stakeholders to ensure that the industry would be developed in a holistic manner.

He said the government was committed to its success, especially in bringing the industry back to its glory as one of the main contributors to the economy.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah said RM87.2 million would be allocated to mineral industry development under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

Shamsul said the plan would cover assessment activities like mineral evaluation, development of monitoring system for mines and quarries, mineral industry sustainability rating and implementation of Sustainable Development Indicators, as well as innovation and commercialisation of mineral products.

The plan was aimed at ensuring sustainable development through efficient natural resources management, making it the country's new revenue source, he said.

He said the diverse mineral resources nationwide would not only contribute to the economy, but also benefit the states.

The ministry would emphasise on sustainability and accountability in mining, exploration, processing and production of

minerals to ensure that it benefited the people and did not negatively affect the environment, biodiversity and forests, he added.

He said surveys by the Minerals and Geoscience Department showed that Malaysia had RM4.11 trillion of metals, comprising metal minerals (RM1.03 trillion), non-metal minerals (RM2.96 trillion) and energy minerals (RM120 billion).

It is learnt that the plan would see the application of modern techniques like ion adsorption (used by miners in China).

With five thrusts, the plan would see the establishment of the Malaysian Mineral Industry Development Board; enhancement in efficiency and service delivery; strengthening the enforcement and supervision; research and development initiatives in mineral-based products for global market; as well as the mapping, management and monitoring of mineral resources.

Among the minerals listed in the plan were tin ore, aluminium/bauxite, copper, gold, iron, nickel, coal, sand and limestone.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Minerals and Geoscience Department and Ranhill Bhd, as well as the department with the Malaysian Chamber of Mines.