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9TH EXTENSION

BAUXITE BAN EXTENDED TO MARCH 31

Sungai Lembing rep hopes mining activities will resume once new SOPs are finalised

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THE wait continues for bauxite mining operators here after the government on Monday decided to extend the moratorium — for the ninth time — until March 31.

The Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry announced that this was following an agreement between its minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan

Rosdy Wan Ismail.

Sungai Lembing assemblyman Datuk Md Sohaimi Mohamed Shah, whose constituency has a huge abandoned bauxite mining site, said he hoped that once the new set of standard operating procedures (SOP) were finalised, the government would allow mining activities to resume.

“There is a huge mining site in Bukit Goh and many areas which have yet to be mined for the mineral. But the area has been left unattended since the moratorium was enforced in January 2016. None of the mining sites have been covered up as the settlers are waiting for the green light from the government.



Dr. Xavier Jayakumar

royalties. Meanwhile a former mining operator, who declined to be named, said the task force preparing the SOP on bauxite mining, transport, stockpile management and exportation should get the views from the mining companies be-

“There seems to be some progress in terms of discussions between the federal and state government, along with the enforcement agencies to allow mining activities to resume. I hope that they will give the settlers good news soon,” he said yesterday.

Sohaimi said lifting the moratorium would benefit the state government as it would have a source of income through bauxite

fore implementing the new guidelines.

“The task force cannot simply introduce a new law as it will be unfair for the small mining operators. The established ones may be able to adhere to the new SOPs, but the smaller ones, especially those in Bukit Goh, may need time to adopt it as they may have to make changes (so that they can adhere to the new SOPs).”

“It is going to be three years since the moratorium was enforced. The remaining stockpile in Kuantan Port and Kemaman Port has yet to be cleared. How much of stockpile is left and how long will it take to be cleared?” he said at



Datuk Md Sohaimi Mohamed Shah

Bukit Goh here.

In September last year, Pahang Mineral Operators Association adviser Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Abdul had reportedly said the moratorium had resulted in losses, including job opportunities, revenue from bauxite mining royalties, taxes, related development and economic spillover.

The ministry on Monday announced that the moratorium would be withdrawn only after the new SOPs on bauxite mining, transport, stockpile management and exports were finalised, and the bauxite stockpiles from the Kuantan Port and Kemaman Port were completely removed.