



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES	
TARIKH	:	14/2/2017	MUKA SURAT : 24
JABATAN	:	NRE / JMG / PTG / BAUXITE	
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN	



Checks at several bauxite mines at Felda Bukit Goh saw a lack of action by the authorities to close the mines. PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AMANG

BAUXITE MINES YET TO BE DRAINED AND FILLED

DEATH TRAPS

Disused mines near residential areas a threat to people, particularly children

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DISUSED bauxite mines in the district have yet to be filled with earth despite an order by Pahang Regent Tengku Mahkota Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah to do so. Checks at several bauxite mines

saw a lack of action by the authorities to close the mines, which could be death traps, particularly for children. At Taman Sungai Karang Jaya, a disused mine that claimed three lives recently has yet to be filled with earth. Resident Azi Yadi Abdullah, 46, said nothing had been done to drain the water and close the mine. "I hope the authorities take immediate action to prevent a recurrence," he said. On Feb 4, Nureen Ain Juwita Mohd Sharif, 10, and siblings Sasabella Zulhairi, 12, and Mahathir Mohamad, 7, drowned after trying to retrieve a pair of pants from a disused mine near their house. The disused mine that claimed

their lives, however, has been partly filled with earth by the residents. Recently, state assemblyman Andansura Rabu claimed that there were at least five disused bauxite mines near residential areas in Berserah. He said he had identified two former mines in Sungai Karang and Kampung Jeram and another in Alor Batu, near Jabor. In Felda Bukit Goh, there were many bauxite mining sites in the area that had yet to be filled with earth, let alone fences or signboards warning the residents to stay away. It was learnt that there were six disused mines in the oil palm plantation, which were filled with water following heavy rain last month, and

each could be between 6m and 10m deep. In October 2015, secondary school student Nabil Ariff Shaari, 14, drowned after taking a quick dip with his friends at a bauxite mine in Ladang Makmur Bukit Goh here. Felda Bukit Goh village security and development committee chairman Mat Zahari Deraman said nothing could be done as the bauxite pools were on privately owned land. "When we reminded them about the order to close the pools, they said that bauxite mining activity will continue after the moratorium ends on March 31. "Therefore, the only thing we can do is to remind residents to always keep an eye on their children."