



KERATAN AKHBAR

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|------------|---|----|
| AKHBAR | : | THE STAR | | | |
| TARIKH | : | 10/5/2017 | MUKA SURAT | : | 16 |
| JABATAN | : | NRE / BAUKSIT | | | |
| KLASIFIKASI | : | PERHATIAN | | | |

Bauxite mining's fate to be decided by year-end

KUALA LUMPUR: The fate of bauxite mining in Pahang will be made known by the end of this year.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the ministry will make a final decision after taking into consideration all aspects including the spin-offs of the industry, impact on the people and revenue to the state government.

"The bauxite issue has been going on since early last year. We will get the relevant authorities to expedite the reports and they have until the end of the year to do so," he said after launching the Sime Darby Foundation Environment Day 2017 at the Performing Arts Centre here yesterday.

Also present were the foundation's chairman Tun Musa Hitam, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is the patron of Landskap Malaysia, and his wife Tun Jean Abdullah.

Dr Wan Junaidi was asked to comment on the moratorium imposed for the past 18 months after the industry received flak from local residents in Kuantan over a lack of safety and regulations that posed threats to the people and environment.

It was revealed that of the 1,200ha of bauxite mines in Kuantan, 790ha were on Felda land. The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry imposed a three-month moratorium from Jan 15 last year against the mining and transport of bauxite ore.

The temporary ban was to allow Kuantan Port to clear its bauxite stockpile backlog and for the authorities to improve the industry's standards.

On another matter, Dr Wan Junaidi said his ministry had nearly completed a full environmental syllabus draft to be introduced to the education system to ensure awareness on environmental preservation and protection of the natural habitat.