



<b>KERATAN AKHBAR</b>
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## Environmental fallout from mining over, says minister

**KUANTAN:** Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar declared the environmental fallout from bauxite mining here was over.

The ministry had imposed a moratorium on new mining activities since Jan 15.

Wan Junaidi said the area at or near bauxite-mining sites and Kuantan Port looked more beautiful after nearly a year since the moratorium.

He said Kuantan Port, which had shipped out all stockpiles of bauxite legally mined before Jan 15, had spent RM30 million to ensure that the offloading of bauxite from lorries to ships did not impact the environment.

"They had utilised the Zero Discharge System to ensure soil from the lorries did not enter the water system," he said here yesterday.

However, he said it was too early to say if the moratorium should lapse on Dec 31 or be extended.

"We will hold a meeting with the stakeholders before making a decision," he said.

The original moratorium was from Jan 15 to April 14. It was extended to July 15, Sept 14 and Dec 31.

Earlier yesterday, he had inspected former bauxite-mining sites like Felda Bukit Kuantan and Kuantan Port by helicopter.

Wan Junaidi said his aerial tour revealed new stockpiles on the ground, indicating illegal mining by those who were "moonlighting".

He said the area was vast and it was impossible for officers to cover every area.

"Our basic major policy is that bauxite mining is

consistent with global practices as well as with our development goals.

"The public must reap the returns of the mining of natural resources," he said, adding that this practice must, however, be done in the most sustainable way.



**Datuk Seri Dr  
Wan Junaidi  
Tuanku  
Jaafar**