



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES
TARIKH	:	2/5/2019
JABATAN	:	KATS / YBM / JKPTG
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN

40 YEARS ON

GOVT TO REVIVE TIN MINING

High prices and huge tin deposits attract industry players, says minister

TASNIM LOKMAN
PUTRAJAYA
tasnim@nst.com.my

THE cabinet plans to revive the tin mining industry after 40 years due to encouraging market prices, says Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar.

He said the deposits of tin were huge as there had been no ore mining for the past four decades.

Prices of tin, he said, could reach up to US\$20,000 (RM83,000) per tonne today and were "very attractive" to industry players with deposits amounting to millions of tonnes.

"There is more interest in tin and our Department of Lands and Mines has mapped the whole country where there are huge tin deposits. So the industry players are interested to return to tin mining."

Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar



"We have discussed this in the cabinet and decided that we will go into tin mining again and give opportunities to the interested parties to go for-

ward with it," he said at a press conference held to mark Pakatan Harapan's first year in government on Monday.

The Kuala Langat member of parliament said although the tin mining industry was not completely stopped, it was not on the scale it was in the 1960s.

At present, Rahman Hydraulic Sdn Bhd in Perak is mining tin on a large scale.

Xavier said the government would look into other minerals such as gold, copper, cobalt and nickel for mining. He said Malaysia was also rich in coal but the government would not go in-

to coal mining as the mineral was located in forest reserves.

"Whatever is in the forest reserve areas will not get a green light for mining."

"Once we know how to protect the forests (from the effects of mining), we will look at the Environmental Impact Assessment study and social impact study before we allow this (the mining)."

As for bauxite mining, Xavier said the standard operating procedure (SOP) on bauxite mining and exporting had paved the way for sustainable mining and minimised its impacts on local inhabitants.

"We discussed with the state government and came up with the SOP together with the state agency (representatives)."