



KERATAN AKHBAR

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OPERATING SINCE 2017

# ILLEGAL KUALA KOH MINE SEALED

It did not have Mineral and Geoscience Dept approval, says MB

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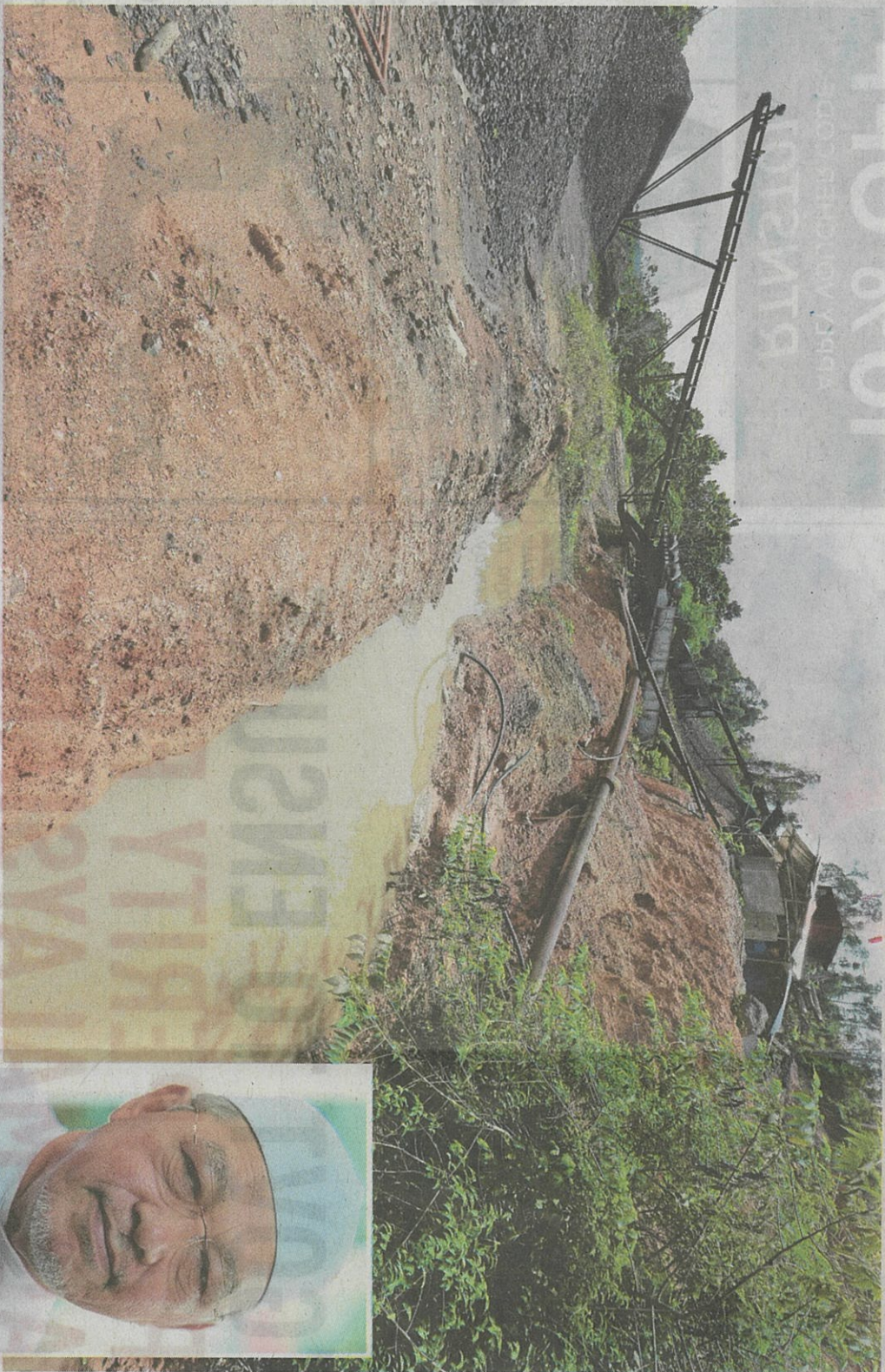
**T**HE Kelantan government yesterday said the iron ore mine in Kuala Koh, Gua Musang, was sealed two weeks ago after it was found to be operating without approval from the Mineral and Geoscience Department since 2017.

Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, who confirmed this, said the company, despite having a licence to operate, had failed to renew other related permits, which expired two years ago.

"The state government has given the locally-based company a licence to operate, but it failed to renew other permits that will allow it to conduct its operations."

"The company's owner must obtain an approval from the Mineral and Geoscience Department before conducting any mining."

"However, this was not done and he continued with the mining operation," he said after launching the new branch of As-Salihin Trustee Bhd in Lembah



The iron ore mine at Kuala Koh last month. (Inset) Datuk Ahmad Yakob. PIC BY SYAMSI SUHAMI

Sireh here yesterday.

Ahmad was commenting on reports that the mine in Kuala Koh had been operating illegally.

On another matter, he said the

federal government and its agencies should not be blamed for the deaths of 15 people from the Bateq tribe in Kuala Koh recently.

"All quarters are responsible.

Don't pin the blame on agencies such as the Orang Asli Development Department (Jakoa) and others for this incident.

"Jakoa is an agency that has been helping the Orang Asli.

"It has been taking care of their welfare."

The Bateq tribe in Kuala Koh made headlines recently after 15 people died of measles from May to last month.