



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Moratorium on bauxite mining till March 31

PUTRAJAYA: The moratorium on bauxite mining and export, which has been extended until March 31, will only be withdrawn after a new SOP has been finalised and its stockpile cleared from the ports.

The new SOP on bauxite mining, transport, stockpile management and exportation had already been prepared by a task force that was jointly established by the federal and state government agencies.

The Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry said based on the monitoring report and a meeting with the relevant agencies on Dec 21, clearance of the stockpile from both Kuantan Port and Kemaman Port had yet to be implemented.

"Hence, the moratorium on bauxite mining and exports activities in Pahang need to be extended to clear the existing stockpiles," the ministry said in a statement.

The moratorium expired on Monday.

The ministry said the agreement was reached between minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail.

"The moratorium is necessary to remove bauxite stockpiles from the Kuantan and Kemaman ports.

"All parties involved are also reminded that the stop-work order issued under the Mineral Development Act 1994 is still in force.

"No party shall be allowed to carry out any bauxite mining work in Pahang until the order is withdrawn," it said. — Bernama