



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	1/7/2021 (KHAMIS)	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	KeTSA			

'ENVIRONMENTALLY DESTRUCTIVE'

NGO: Reject EIA for proposed iron ore mining project in Jerantut forest reserve

GEORGE TOWN: Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) has called for authorities to halt the proposed iron ore mining project in Kuala Mukim Tembeling, Jerantut in Pahang.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the proposed project, which intends to excavate iron ore in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Rank 2, covering 60.75ha, has been submitted for public review.

The proposed site is in Som Forest Reserve, which is in the Central Forest Spine Corridor (CFS) to SL2: Krau Wildlife Re-

serve - HS Bencah - HS Som - HS Yong), hence the categorisation as ESA Rank 2.

SAM president Meenakshi Raman said it was disheartening that environmentally destructive projects, such as open-cast mining, were being proposed in biodiversity-rich areas as they would cause irreversible damage to the landscape, flora and fauna.

She added that wildlife habitat would be adversely affected as the proposed site would be in the CFS corridor, a secondary linkage serving as a bridge for wildlife to move from one primary forest to another.

In this case, these corridors connect the Krau Wildlife Reserve in Raub with the Som Forest Reserve in Jerantut.

"We have to preserve and protect our wildlife and natural environment in a time where the world is working hard to preserve our already deteriorated environment and biodiversity. The EIA must be rejected."

She said any disturbance could impact the wildlife in the area.

Based on the EIA report, she said the proposed site housed wild animals that were classified as vulnerable, critically endangered and threatened.

Animals found here include Malayan tigers, panthers, tapirs, elephants and deer.

The population of these wild animals, she said, had declined over the years due to rampant development and human-wildlife conflicts.

"Malaysia is a signatory to international treaties aimed at combating climate change and protecting forests and biodiversity.

"We have legislation that is meant to protect forests and biodiversity.

"All of these must be respected."



Meenakshi Raman