



Long-term Impact of Kuantan's Unregulate Bauxite Mining



Rampant, unregulated bauxite mining in Malaysia's Kuantan and its impact on the region's environment and economy have revealed loopholes more than one in the country's industrial regulatory system.

Why only Malaysia's? The setback has unearthed many gaps existing within the mining industry's value chain across economies. These include issues relating to ethical mining and sustainability which have long been overlooked by the mineral development companies. It is high time the industry addressed these issues; otherwise it could experience bigger setbacks in the days

to come, opine industry experts and scientists.

Environmentalists are concerned over the long-term impact on Kuantan's environment, ecosystem and economy due to the damage done by unbridled bauxite mining activities. Environmentalist Faisal Parish from the Global Environmental Centre (GEC) said in a recent forum that bauxite mining has done serious environmental damage and the process to rehabilitate Kuantan's ecosystem might take a while.

"We need to see what is going to happen after the three-month moratorium, as damage has already been done. Disruption to the

environment and ecosystem has been done as bauxite miners have neglected proper safety procedures," Faisal said while mentioning that marine life, too, continued to be at risk.

Faisal criticized the miners stating that their mining activities were selfish acts that had damaged the environment around Kuantan and affected the livelihood of the locals. He called the miners to own up for the damage caused by their mining activities by providing compensation to those affected. He also called for legal action to be taken against mining companies, especially illegal ones.

A noted marine biologist N.Gopinath echoed Faisal's concerns and said long-term effects of bauxite mining in the state would relate to loss or degradation of habitats, marine food sources and direct and indirect mortality of fish and aquatic organisms.

Unregulated bauxite mining in Kuantan has had widespread impact on Kuantan's economy, which is likely to take more than three months to change for the better.

China's Scrap Aluminium Imports Decline



China imported 167,191 mt of scrap aluminium in December 2015 and 2,086,952 mt of the same commodity during the twelve months period ending 31st December, 2015, according to the data published by the country's General Administration of Customs in their recently published Exim report.

The monthly import figures for December showed a 26.8 per cent decline from the corresponding period last year, while the January-December figures indicated at a 9.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) drop in imports.

According to the GAC data, China shipped around 139 mt and 1043 mt of scrap aluminium in December and during January-December period respectively. The monthly data shows 50.75 per cent increase while the yearly data indicates at a 7.4 per cent increase in scrap aluminium shipments y-o-y from China to the international markets.

METAL PUNCH

- Shrinivas Prabhudesai



"Sir, if there is no demand, why should we produce?"