

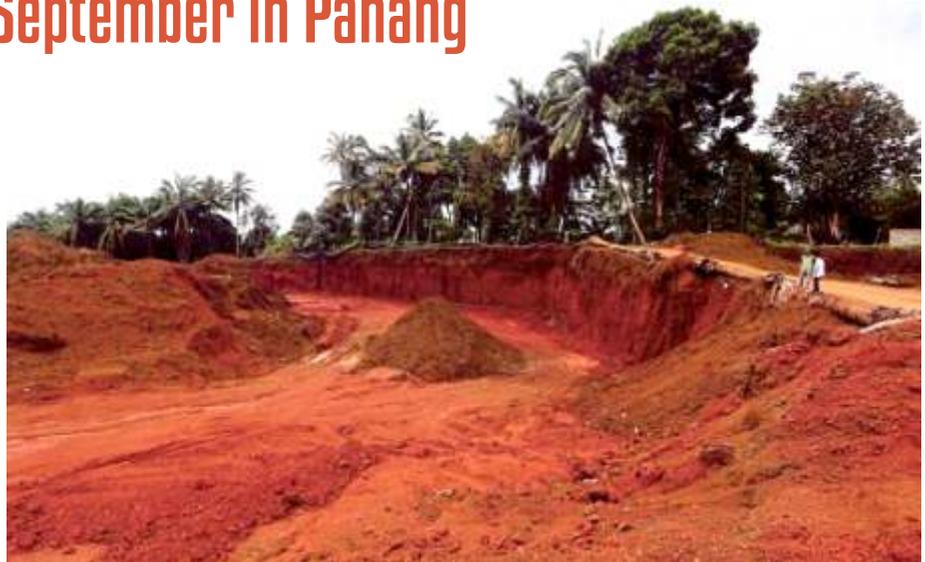
Government's mining ban extends until mid September in Pahang

Bauxite miners in Pahang are significantly less than happy about the latest extension in the government's mining ban in the province. The latest extension is the second such from the government, which extends the ban until mid-September.

Bukit Goh Bauxite Issues Committee chairman Datuk Dr. Abd Wahid Abd Manap says miners have been accused of failing to clear bauxite reserves despite the fact that the government has not issued licenses sufficient to make that happen.

"We have to abide by the moratorium extension ordered by the Cabinet. But we are upset that the reason for it has not been made clear," explained Dr. Abd Wahid. "The minister said it is the operators' fault for not clearing the stockpiles but we risk getting caught by the authorities because we do not have a mining license. Even if the Government grants us an approved permit (AP), we still cannot transport the ore to the port without a mining license."

Dr. Abd Wahid went on to say that there



is still around 1.8 million metric tons stockpiled in Felda Bukit Goh alone.

"We propose that the state government give our committee a permit to transport the ore to the port and an AP be granted for us to export," he said. "Just a single special permit for our committee is enough as it will be easier for us to co-ordinate and ensure the transportation proceeds smoothly."

"We have about 300 lorries ready to move the ore and we can add more if needed," said Dr. Abd Wahid. He went on to say that the stockpiles could be cleared within two months if the government allowed it. "We have already paid the land owners and spent a lot of money on machinery and now we are just suffering losses every day," he concluded.



Mining to contribute 1% to India's GDP growth rate : Piyush Goyal



India's newly elected Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy, Piyush Goyal, immediately after taking charge of his portfolio, said he expects the mining sector to contribute one per cent to the country's GDP growth in the next one to two years.

Goyal has also set aggressive targets in Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy sector.

"If we can target 30-40 per cent growth in the mining sector, we can contribute one per cent to the GDP growth rate," he said. Goyal said he will also have a dialogue with all stakeholders for creating a future roadmap of growth and development in the mining sector. "My primary focus will be for using the resources in the most effective manner," he added.

On the ongoing mining lease auctions, Goyal said, "The mining lease auctions will

be done from time to time in a dynamic mechanism so that whatever is in national interest is done. The interest of consumers of various products will find priority." The Minister also said that the government will balance the interests of environment and development with regard to mining.

"We need security in terms of our requirement of minerals. We need to create jobs in the country and promote new people to come and invest," Goyal added.