



Malaysian Mines Ministry to hold public hearings on new Bauxite regulations



In an effort at easing the transition to bauxite production, Malaysia's Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry announced that it will conduct hearings to discuss the new set of standard operating procedures by which bauxite miners will be expected to abide upon resumption of production at the end of next month.

As per the ministry, the hearings will provide stakeholders an opportunity to add input to the SOPs before they are implemented as well.

The ministry in a statement that "To ensure the involvement of all parties, this engagement that will be held before March 31 will also take into account the interests of the people as well as environmental NGOs."

The SOPs, which cover the entirety of the process from mine planning to export, will also be opened up to public examination and comment at a date to be determined.

The statement said that "The ministry is committed to ensure all complaints from the people, especially those who are directly affected by bauxite mining activities, are heard in line with the ministry's vision as a leader in sustainable management of water,

land and natural resources for the country's prosperity."

Chairman of Stop Bauxite Pollution People's Movement (Geram) Ali Akbar Othman said in comments to local media that, though the opportunity for public comment is encouraging, he hoped that the ministry would coordinate such hearings will properly account for all those wishing to provide input.

He added that "Similar to the public hearing held by the

government's executive review committee on the Lynas plant, I hope participants who wish to attend will be allowed to register earlier and the venue will offer extra room so that more people can attend. I am sure many will want to be at the public engagement as they want to hear for themselves on the new SOP and how mining activities will be conducted April onwards. People have seen it in the past and now they will be able to make comparison." ■

Hindustan Zinc EBITDA up by 23 PC



In the recent third quarter output, Hindustan Zinc has reported its EBITDA up by 23 per cent led by higher metal production, and a record silver and lead volume. Total mined metal production in Q3 FY2019 was up 6 per cent sequentially and up 3 per cent y-o-y to 247kt. All this progress, driven by strong increase in underground ore production and improvement in ore grades. Mined metal production at 247kt, underground mined metal up 38% y-o-y and 6% q-o-q.

Revenue from operations during the quarter was Rs. 5,540 Crore, an increase of 16 per cent sequentially primarily due to higher metal volume and rupee depreciation. Net Profit for the quarter was Rs. 2,211

Crore, up 22 per cent sequentially and down 4 per cent y-o-y while YTD net profit was down by 12 per cent y-o-y to Rs. 5,944 Crore in line with EBITDA, higher treasury income and higher depreciation, partly offset by lower tax rate.

With the ongoing ramp-up of underground mines, metal production in FY 2019 is expected to be slightly higher than last year. Refined zinc-lead production will be in sync with mined metal production and slightly short of last year's production. The guidance of FY 2019 silver production to be in the range of 650 to 700 MT is reiterated.

Agnivesh Agarwal, Chairman said that, the all-round performance of our underground mines has been gratifying. As our ongoing projects are approaching completion, we are set to reach design capacity of 1.2 million MT per annum in the coming quarters. I am also delighted by the substantial increase in silver production which we expect to continue next year as well. ■