



**4-5 APRIL 2019  
(THU-FRI)**



**BERITA | MALAYSIA**

## Penduduk kampung resah Sungai Rui dicemari arsenik

*Aida Aziz, Astro Awani* / 📅 *April 05, 2019 18:02 MYT*



*Maklum balas yang diberikan oleh penduduk kampung kepada Astro AWANI juga membayangkan keadaan sungai ini tidak memuaskan, di samping air keruh dan banyak ikan yang mati. - Astro AWANI*



**GERIK:** Situasi Sungai Rui di Gerik yang dikatakan tercemar dengan arsenik dan berpotensi menyebabkan kanser kulit kepada pengguna sememangnya memberi kesan mendalam kepada penduduk sekitarnya.

Tambahan pula apabila rata-rata penduduk berhampiran sungai itu bergantung harap kepada pulangan hasil ikan loma ketika musim kemuncaknya, yang bermula pada bulan Ogos hingga November setiap tahun.

Pada musim itu, orang ramai yang datang dari pelbagai pelosok negeri akan berkumpul untuk menyertai pesta menyauk ikan loma di Sungai Kuala Rui.

Maklum balas yang diberikan oleh penduduk kampung kepada *Astro AWANI* juga membayangkan keadaan sungai ini tidak memuaskan, di samping air keruh dan banyak ikan yang mati.

Menurut salah salah seorang penduduk di Kampung Batu 6, Bandariang, Jamaliah Osman, dia peka dengan isu semasa berkenaan sungai tersebut, memandangkan Sungai Rui menjadi sumber pendapatan utama selain menoreh getah.

“Di hujung sungai ini ada lagi kampung-kampung lain. Mungkin orang kampung ini tak kena, jadi mungkin belah sana yang kena.

“Bila ada macam (bangunan) perkilangan ke apa lepaskan air, air (jadi) keruh dan bertompok-tompok macam awan. Kita boleh nampak tompok-tompok tu. Ikan atau biawak memang melampunlah mati,” katanya.



Ahli Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JKKK) Batu 6, Alwi Johan, berkata situasi semasa begitu ketara.

“Memang betul banyak ikan mati. Kalau boleh kita pulihara baliklah sungai ni, (termasuk) menjaga spesies ikan. Udang galah pun dulu ada, macam-macam ikan ada.

“Orang kampung pun berharap sangatlah kerajaan negeri ambil tindakan lah,” ujarinya.

*Astro AWANI* turut mendapatkan respons dari pegawai luar Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) Zulkifli Yusuf, yang kebetulan meninjau keadaan semasa Sungai Rui.

Tegasnya, perkara ini wajar diambil serius oleh semua jabatan yang terlibat bagi mengelakkan situasi lebih buruk terjadi, khususnya kepada kesihatan penduduk yang tinggal berhampiran sungai itu.

“Apabila mengetahui bahawa kandungan logam arsenik terdapat dalam air Sungai Rui, kami berasakan ini suatu yang amat serius dan akan memberi kesan yang buruk kepada alam sekitar dan kesihatan manusia.

“Oleh yang demikian, kami berharap pemantauan dan ujian terhadap kualiti air sungai ini dilakukan dari semasa ke semasa dan pendedahan harus dibuat tentang keselamatan penduduk yang menggunakan sungai ini,” ujar Zulkifli.

Dalam pada itu, Pengarah Jabatan Alam Sekitar Perak, Noor Azizi Adinan memaklumkan pihaknya telah memantau kualiti air sungai itu dari semasa ke semasa untuk memastikan ia selamat.

Sampel yang diambil sejak tahun 2016 itu turut menunjukkan ada sedikit kehadiran arsenik yang dipercayai berpunca dari aktiviti perlombongan.

Bagi kesan jangka panjang, air yang dicemari dengan arsenik boleh mengakibatkan penyakit kulit, kerosakan otak dan penyakit jantung kepada manusia.

<http://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/penduduk-kampung-resah-sungai-rui-dicemari-arsenik-203421>



BERITA | MALAYSIA

# Sabah rekod lebih 1,700 kebakaran terbuka sejak Januari

Bernamea / April 04, 2019 05:15 MYT



*Pegawai dan anggota bomba Sabah juga giat menjalankan operasi memadam kebakaran terbuka yang berlaku di beberapa kawasan di negeri ini. - Gambar fail/Astro AWANI*

**KOTA KINABALU:** Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Sabah merekodkan sebanyak 1,706 kebakaran terbuka sepanjang Januari hingga Mac.

Menurut kenyataan jabatan itu pada Rabu, kes kebakaran terbuka pada Mac mencatat rekod tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 979 kes, diikuti

Februari (537 kes) dan Januari (190 kes).

Tuaran adalah antara tujuh daerah di Sabah merekodkan kes kebakaran terbuka paling tinggi sepanjang tiga bulan berkenaan iaitu sebanyak 265 kes, diikuti Kota Kinabalu (258 kes), Keningau (156), Kota Belud (139), Penampang (129), Papar (122) dan Kimanis (84).

Menurut jabatan itu, kes kebakaran terbuka di kawasan belukar mencatat rekod tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 954 kes, diikuti kebakaran hutan (528 kes), tapak pelupusan sampah haram (80), kebun kecil (61), ladang (23), sawah padi (13) dan dua kes kebakaran di tapak pelupusan majlis daerah. Pegawai dan anggota bomba Sabah juga giat menjalankan operasi memadam kebakaran terbuka yang berlaku di beberapa kawasan di negeri ini.

Sementara itu, kebakaran terbuka turut menjejaskan kualiti udara di tiga daerah di negeri ini apabila mencatatkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) pada tahap sederhana.

Menurut laman sesawang Jabatan Alam Sekitar setakat pukul 5 petang semalam, Kimanis merekodkan kadar bacaan IPU tertinggi iaitu 85, diikuti Kota Kinabalu (68) dan Keningau (58).

Labuan turut mencatat bacaan IPU sederhana iaitu 53.

Kadar bacaan IPU di Tawau dan Sandakan pula pada kategori baik iaitu masing-masing 38 dan 43.

Bacaan IPU antara 0 dan 50 dikategorikan sebagai baik, 51 hingga 100 (sederhana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (sangat tidak sihat) dan 300 ke atas (bahaya).

Orang ramai yang ingin mendapatkan bacaan IPU terkini pada setiap jam boleh merujuk laman web <http://apims.doe.gov.my>. -- BERNAMA

<http://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/sabah-rekod-lebih-1-700-kebakaran-terbuka-sejak-januari-203189>



VIDEO | MALAYSIA

## Pengarah JAS Johor diarah bertukar ke Putrajaya

Diterbitkan pada: *April 05, 2019 06:33 (MYT)* | Durasi: 0 min, 30 saat



Pengarah Jabatan Alam Sekitar Johor, Datuk Dr Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh, diarah bertukar ke Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim (MESTECC) berkuat kuasa 1 April lalu.

<http://www.astroawani.com/video-malaysia/pengarah-jas-johor-diarah-bertukar-ke-putrajaya-419799>



VIDEO | MALAYSIA

## Isu bekalan air dan pencemaran selesai

Diterbitkan pada: *April 04, 2019 00:25 (MYT) | Durasi: 1 min, 38 saat*



75 ribu pemilik akaun Ranhill SAJ Sendirian Berhad (Ranhill SAJ) di Simpang Renggam yang sebelum ini terjejas kerana bekalan air boleh menarik nafas lega. Ia berikutan apabila tiada lagi sampah yang akan di buang di Tapak Pelupusan Sampah Ladang CEP1 di situ, sekali gus memberi risiko kepada isu pencemaran.

<http://www.astroawani.com/video-malaysia/isu-bekalan-air-dan-pencemaran-selesai-418680>



## Observations

# Yes, EPA: Regulating Mercury Pollution Is “Appropriate and Necessary”

Public health professionals call out the toxic sleight of hand in the agency’s latest proposal

- [By Kathleen Rest, Georges C. Benjamin on April 5, 2019](#)



— [Getty Images](#)

It doesn’t take a health care professional, public health expert or environmental scientist to understand the value of clean air and the need for regulatory safeguards that protect our families and communities from [toxic air pollution](#). While killer smog may seem like an historical artifact, air pollution exacts a significant toll globally and on [our own nation’s](#) health and economy.

[The scientific evidence and health data are clear](#); exposure to toxic and hazardous air pollutants can result in premature death and cause a host of cancers, lung and heart diseases, adverse reproductive outcomes, birth defects, and neurological and cognitive impairments that can have lifetime impacts. In addition to pain, suffering and disability, these health impacts have significant economic, social and emotional costs for patients, their families and their caregivers—from doctors’ appointments, emergency department visits, and medications, to lost workdays, missed school days, and restrictions in daily living.

And it doesn’t take an advanced degree to know that mercury is an especially bad actor—a toxin particularly hazardous to pregnant women, to the neurological development of their fetuses and to young children—causing impairments that can last a lifetime.



None of this is really news. What may be news is that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has [proposed a change to its Mercury and Air Toxics Standards \(MATS\)](#) in the form of a new formula for calculating the human health benefits of reducing some of the most hazardous air pollutants from power plants: chemicals that in even relatively small quantities are potent carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens and neurotoxins. Congress specifically recognized these hazards when it enacted Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

In a somewhat wonky sleight of hand and one that does not bode well for future clean air protections, the agency has proposed a revision to its own finding on MATS. Incredibly, the agency now asserts that it is [no longer “appropriate and necessary”](#) to regulate mercury and hazardous air pollution emitted from power plants under the Clean Air Act. In the U.S., power plants are the largest source of mercury, chromium, arsenic, nickel, selenium and the acid gases hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen chloride. These are highly hazardous pollutants that cause serious harm to humans, wildlife and the environment. And the human health damage is borne disproportionately by people of color and the poor.

In 2012, the [EPA estimated](#) that its MATS rule would prevent 11,000 premature deaths and over 100,000 asthma and heart attacks each year, as a result of the co-benefits of the reduction in particulate matter pollution that occurs when plants reduce their mercury emissions. The agency estimated the health benefits of reductions in all air pollutants associated with MATS would range from \$37 billion to \$90 billion, with compliance costs to industry estimated at \$7.4 billion to \$9.6 billion annually.

But the EPA has now decided that the health benefits of controlling MATS emissions are only \$4 million to \$6 million max, if you don't (and the agency opines that you shouldn't) count the benefits of controlling the related emissions. This despite the fact that [scientists have concluded](#) that the EPA's 2011 regulatory impact assessment greatly underestimated the monetized benefits of reducing mercury emissions from power plants. Also notable is the fact that [most coal plants have already come into compliance](#) with MATS by installing the necessary pollution control technology.

In suggesting that it is no longer “appropriate and necessary” to regulate mercury and air toxics from power plants, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler is basically saying that the health benefits are too paltry to justify the costs.

As public health professionals, we strenuously disagree. We suspect that most members of the public will, too.

So, what to do? The EPA proposal is open for public comment through April 17, 2019. It is critical that scientists, health professionals, economists, community advocates, public interest organizations and concerned members of the public express their strong opposition to this drastic narrowing in how the agency evaluates the costs and benefits of critical public health protections.



The American Public Health Association has joined professional medical societies and public health groups in taking legal action to protect limits on MATS pollution and has filed an [amicus brief](#) in a related court case. The Union of Concerned Scientists has produced a [public comment guide](#) to support and encourage submission of detailed and specific comments during this open comment period. Both organizations will be submitting comments as well.

Make no mistake. Though the current proposal focuses specifically on MATS, it directly challenges the very foundation of clean air regulations. That's why we and our organizations are speaking out—for the health of our families and our communities today and into the future. Our individual and collective voices matter. We urge you to join us.

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of Scientific American.

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*Credit: Nick Higgins*

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Georges C. Benjamin, MD, is Executive Director of the American Public Health Association.

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**MALAYSIA**

**CORPORATE**

**TOP STORIES**

*Highlight*

## PM: Where can Lynas send its wastes that no one wants to?

[Ahmad Naqib Idris/theedgemarkets.com](https://theedgemarkets.com)

**April 05, 2019 19:14 pm +08**

PUTRAJAYA (April 5): While Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad acknowledged that the new Government has imposed a precondition for Lynas Corp Ltd to ship out its wastes, he noted the reality that the Australia-based rare-earth processor may have problems finding a destination which would accept the radioactive water leached purification (WLP) solid wastes residue.

“We have imposed extra conditions on Lynas, saying that they must take away their wastes. But where would they take it to?”

“Australia? Australia will not accept it so they can’t do that,” said Dr Mahathir at a press conference this afternoon.

Besides, Mahathir commented that rare-earth processors, which want to operate in the country, will have to process the input before bringing it into Malaysia — a move to reduce the solid wastes.

“We have opened up the business to other people and there are other companies willing to buy out or somehow acquire Lynas. They have given us a promise that in the future, before sending the raw material to Malaysia, they will clean it up first.

“They will crack it and decontaminate it in regard to radioactivity, so that when the raw material comes here, the waste is not dangerous.

“These companies, or even Lynas, can continue operations if they promise that the raw material only comes here after the cracking and cleaning up,” said Mahathir.

Lynas, which operates a mine in Western Australia and a US\$800 million processing plant in Malaysia, is facing issues regarding its licence renewals for the plant in Gebeng, Pahang, due to concerns over its waste storage.

The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (Mesec) has set a precondition for the renewal of Lynas’ three-year temporary storage licence for the WLP solid wastes residue, which is up for renewal in September.

In a surprising turn of event, Malaysian Ministers are divided on the issue, with some suggesting that Lynas should ship out its wastes, while others said the company should be allowed to operate in the country, given the significant amount of investment in Malaysia.



Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof yesterday lambasted his colleague Yeo Bee Yin, who is the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister, for compelling Lynas to ship out its wastes from the country, saying her stand was not one that was endorsed by the Cabinet.

He said Yeo has to “take responsibility” for her statement — issued in December last year — on the matter, saying the Cabinet had never decided on any measure to manage the wastes produced by the Australian rare earth miner’s Lynas Advanced Materials Plant.

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/pm-where-can-lynas-send-its-wastes-no-one-wants>

Read also: <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/lynas-likely-get-green-light-stay-%E2%80%94-sources>

**MALAYSIA****CORPORATE****POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

## **Dr Mahathir says other companies may buy rare-earths processor Lynas**

**April 05, 2019 17:11 pm +08**

KUALA LUMPUR (April 5): Other companies may be in the running to buy Australian rare-earths processing company Lynas Corp, which may lose the operating licence for its processing plant in Malaysia, the country's Prime Minister said on Friday.

Lynas operates an US\$800 million plant in the Malaysian town of Kuantan that refines ore from a rare-earths mine that it owns in Australia. Malaysia has recently halted the renewal of its operating licence over concerns about how it handles radioactive wastes at the site.

Lynas last week rejected a US\$1.1 billion takeover offer from Australian conglomerate Wesfarmers Ltd though Wesfarmers said they remain keen on the talks.

In a press briefing on Malaysian TV after a cabinet meeting on Friday, Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said other companies could be interested in Lynas.

"We have opened up the business to other people, and there are other companies willing to acquire Lynas," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir did not say who are the companies interested in purchasing Lynas.



"They have given us a promise that in the future before sending the raw materials to Malaysia they will clean it up first. They will crack it and decontaminated it in some way with regard to radioactivity," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that the company, or even Lynas, would be able to operate in Malaysia if they promise that raw materials coming to Malaysia are cleaned.

In December, Malaysia's Energy and Environment Ministry required Lynas, the only rare earths producer outside of China, to remove the accumulating radioactive wastes to qualify for a renewal.

Dr Mahathir said Lynas had intended to send the waste back to Australia but the country does not want to accept it.

Rare earths are speciality metals used in everything from ceramics to magnets and consumer electronics.

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/dr-mahathir-says-other-companies-may-buy-rareearths-processor-lynas>



**MALAYSIA** **CORPORATE**

## Lynas: Bauxite mining operations not far from our plant

Bernama/Bernama

**April 05, 2019 00:25 am +08**

KUANTAN (April 4): Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Lynas) has rebutted an allegation that its plant in Gebeng is far from bauxite mining sites.

Lynas radiation safety, regulations and compliance general manager, Prof Dr Ismail Bahari, said in a statement today that the bauxite mining operations — before the implementation of the moratorium — were done within a short distance from its plant.

"In fact, two previously-used bauxite mining pits are located within one kilometre of the Lynas Malaysia plant," he said.

Ismail was responding to media reports quoting Malaysian Nature Society Pahang chairperson Noor Jehan Abu Bakar as saying that the bauxite mines and stockpiles are far from the Lynas plant, about 15km-37km away.



The distance of the bauxite sites was spotlighted after Lynas suggested bauxite mining activity could be the reason for contamination in the groundwater near its plant.

The executive review committee appointed by the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry in its reports submitted in December 2018 only suggested for further research to be conducted on the findings of excessive levels of heavy metals in the groundwater.

The committee, which consisted of experts in various fields, did not point a finger at Lynas in its findings.

Ismail said that after starting its operations in 2012, Lynas has welcomed over 17,000 visitors to its plant and hopes more will come to get a better picture of its operations.

"We continue to hope that all members of the Parliamentary caucus committee will accept our invitation to visit our plant or meet with management to ensure they have accurate information about our operations," he said.

Ismail also reiterated Lynas's stand that all assessments of their operations should be based on scientific facts and evidence from qualified experts, and not unsupported assertions by unqualified people.

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/lynas-bauxite-mining-operations-not-far-our-plant>



**CORPORATE** **FROM THE EDGE**

## Lynas: Caucus' lack of interest in plant visit disappointing

Samuel Lim/The Edge Financial Daily  
April 04, 2019 10:51 am +08

This article first appeared in The Edge Financial Daily, on April 4, 2019.

KUALA LUMPUR: Rare earth materials producer Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd is disappointed that a special parliamentary caucus committee tasked with monitoring its





operations in the country has not taken up its offer to visit its plant.

“This is disappointing as many assertions made by the committee are incorrect and we wish to ensure that all members have access to the facts,” Lynas Malaysia managing director and vice president Datuk Mashal Ahmad said in a statement yesterday.

An invitation had also been extended to the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin to visit the plant or to receive a briefing on its operations.

All but one member of the caucus had either declined or not responded to its hand-delivered invitation, Mashal said. This was in contrast with the “diligent, scientific approach” of the Pakatan Harapan government’s review committee, appointed by the minister last year, he said.

Lynas’ operations came back into the limelight this week when Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof criticised Yeo for pressing Lynas to ship out its wastes, saying that her stand had not been endorsed by the cabinet.

Mohd Redzuan’s criticism of Yeo raised more than a few eyebrows, as the matter is not under his ministry’s purview, The Edge Financial Daily wrote on Tuesday.

Commenting on the row, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday that the matter would be discussed by the cabinet, and what it determined would be the official stand.

Mashal noted that the review committee also made recommendations, including for Lynas Malaysia to site and build a permanent disposal facility (PDF) for water leached purification (WLP) residue — a proposal he said the company is prepared to comply with.

The rare earth processing company noted the three operating licences given by the federal government require Lynas Malaysia to carry out research and development on the safe reuse of the WLP residue generated.

“If that proves impractical, the licence conditions require Lynas Malaysia to site, construct and build a PDF to store the WLP residue. Lynas Malaysia is only required to export the WLP out of Malaysia if both of the previous options are not available,” said Mashal.

<https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/lynas-caucus-lack-interest-plant-visit-disappointing>



> Local

## Lynas can continue operations, but must clean up raw material first

05 APR 2019 / 18:34 H.



*Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaks at a press conference at Perdana Putra on April 5, 2019. — Bernama*

**PUTRAJAYA:** Lynas Malaysia can continue its operations in Malaysia provided it cleans up the raw material brought into the country first, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia had imposed additional conditions on Lynas, compelling it to take away the waste so that the company could continue its operations in Gebeng.

“But where do they want to take the waste to? They want to take it to Australia? But they (Australia) do not want to accept it. We can’t do it anyway.

“What we have done is that we have open up the business to other people and there are other companies ready to acquire Lynas.

“They had given us the promise that in future, before sending the raw material to Malaysia, they will clean it up first, crack it and decontaminate it somewhere in regard to radioactivity,” he told a press conference here today.

Dr Mahathir said these companies or even Lynas could continue their operations if they promise to crack (clean up) the raw material first before bringing it into the country.

“If the raw material comes here (Malaysia) and the volume is less, then the waste from that raw material is not dangerous to anybody,” he added.

In November last year, it was reported that Lynas, which processes rare earths at its Malaysia factory in the Gebeng Industrial Zone here, would temporarily halt its operations in December.

The decision was taken at Lynas Corporation Ltd’s annual general meeting in Sydney on Nov 28, after its CEO, Amanda Lacaze allegedly told the meeting that Malaysia did not allow them to increase production of lanthanide. — *Bernama*

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/lynas-can-continue-operations-but-must-clean-up-raw-material-first-YX761188>



> Local

## Lynas Malaysia: Our residue is Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material

04 APR 2019 / 10:40 H.

**PETALING JAYA:** Lynas Malaysia today maintained that its water leached purification (WLP) residue is Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM).

It said statements by Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) and the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) are false and ignore scientific fact.

“WLP contains low level, naturally occurring radionuclides, and the lanthanide concentrate (feedstock material) processed at the Lynas Malaysia plant has the same low level of NORM as the WLP residue,” its general manager in charge of radiation safety, regulations and compliance, Prof Dr Ismail Bahari, said in a statement.

“There is no technological enhancement of the low level, naturally occurring radionuclides (Thorium and Uranium). This was confirmed by the Pakatan Harapan government’s Review Committee, appointed by the MESTECC Minister in 2018.”

WLP is also classified as NORM by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the international scientific benchmark for radiation safety, he said.

The IAEA Safety Standard for protecting people and the environment (GSR Part 5, 2009) advocates “dilute and disperse” as one of the principal ways radioactive waste can be managed.

“The government’s Review Committee found Lynas Malaysia’s operations are low risk, compliant with relevant regulations, and that residue storage facilities are operated in a proper manner,” Ismail said.

“These findings are consistent with several independent and scientific reviews, including by the International Atomic Energy Agency.”

He said all assessments of Lynas Malaysia’s operations should be based on scientific facts and evidence from qualified experts, not unsupported assertions by unqualified people.

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/lynas-malaysia-our-residue-is-naturally-occurring-radioactive-material-CC756004>



> Local

## 17,000 consumers in Kulai face water disruption

04 APR 2019 / 23:29 H.

*Picture for representation only. — AFP*

**JOHOR BARU:** About 17,000 account holders under the Ranhill SAJ water company in Kulai have been facing water supply disruption since yesterday morning due to ammonia contamination at Sungai Sayong.

Johor International Trade, Investment and Utility Committee chairman Jimmy Puah Wee Tse said the pollution occurred as a reservoir at a bio-composite centre next to an oil palm mill in Sedenak was broken, causing water containing ammonia to flow into Sungai Sayong.

“The contamination caused the Sayong 1 and Sayong 2 water treatment plants to be closed at 6.30pm on April 3 because the water could not be treated due to high ammonia content.

At 5.30am and 11.30am today, operations at the Semanggar and Sg Johor water treatment plants were also halted due to the contamination, before the one in Tai Hong was closed at 1.30pm,” he said in a statement here today.

Puah said the water supply was expected to return by 10pm.

“The authorities have taken action against the premises by cancelling the raw water abstraction licence with immediate effect, and will impose a compound based on the of the severity incident.

“The Johor government will not compromise with irresponsible parties,” he added. — *Bernama*

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/17-000-consumers-in-kulai-face-water-disruption-LJ759085>



> Local

## Arsenic contamination: State govt to continue monitoring Sungai Rui in Gerik

04 APR 2019 / 19:15 H.



*Filepix of Sungai Rui.*

**IPOH:** The Perak state government will continue to monitor the water quality at Sungai Rui in Gerik which is believed to be contaminated with arsenic.

State Education, Technology, Science and Environment Committee chairman Dr Abdul Aziz Bari said the contamination was discovered by the Mineral and Geoscience Department and the Department of Environment while conducting tests in the river recently.

“The water quality in the Sungai Rui has been affected by turbidity and silt, the PH levels and the presence of heavy metals in the river is due to mining activities, apart from agriculture, logging and construction carried out in the area.

“Although the pollution has not yet reached a chronic level, the state government has taken preliminary steps to control the pollution level,” he told a press conference here today.

Abdul Aziz said the state government would be requesting the Federal government’s cooperation in terms of expertise and allocation for the cleaning of the river.

“I urge residents living around Sungai Rui not to panic because the state government is trying its best to restore the river.

“However, at the same time, we will also take certain steps before the cleaning works can be implemented so that residents in the area do not suffer from serious symptoms,” he said. —

*Bernama*

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/arsenic-contamination-state-govt-to-continue-monitoring-sungai-rui-in-gerik-MD757493>



## Lynas oh! Lynas! Tunggu Kabinet esok



*YEO BEE YIN*

**Azmi Hassan**

**04 April 2019 12:00 PM**

PERBEZAAN pendapat dalam kalangan menteri Kabinet adalah satu perkara lumrah kerana setiap menteri walaupun telah diberi tanggungjawab untuk mengurus kementerian tertentu, masih berhak untuk menyuarakan

pendapat walaupun di luar bidang tugas kementerian beliau.

Sebab itu senario perbezaan pendapat ini sepatutnya dihargai kerana setiap dasar yang dibentuk oleh kerajaan bukan sahaja dibuat secara konsensus tetapi dibuat setelah proses perbincangan yang mengambil kira semua pendapat telah dilalui.

Tetapi percanggahan pendapat atau kenyataan antara menteri adalah senario yang harus dielak kerana ia bukan sahaja memberi persepsi yang tidak baik kepada rakyat tetapi percanggahan sebegini mencerminkan percanggahan dasar yang dibentuk.

Beberapa minggu lepas apabila Menteri Hal Ehwal Ekonomi, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali dan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Guan Eng bercanggah kenyataan mengenai status kontrak China Communication Construction Company Ltd. (CCCC) bagi projek Laluan Rel Pantai Timur (ECRL), ia memberi tafsiran yang tidak sihat kerana bukan sahaja dasar ECRL melibatkan syarikat luar negara tetapi juga terkait dengan negara kuasa besar China.

Percanggahan kenyataan antara dua menteri kanan ini memaksa Perdana Menteri, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad mencelah bagi meredakan keadaan dengan menegaskan kenyataan kedua-dua menteri itu benar cuma bercanggah jika dinilai pada garis masa yang sama.

Apabila Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Darell Leiking memberi nasihat kepada menteri supaya memberi tumpuan kepada bidang tugas kementerian masing-masing, nasihat tersebut sebenarnya ditujukan kepada Menteri Pembangunan Usahawan, Datuk Seri Mohd. Redzuan Yusof.

Beliau yang membuat cadangan untuk memperluaskan skop kementeriannya supaya meliputi aspek perdagangan dan pelaburan. Senario sebegini dianggap lazim kerana isu yang timbul antara dua menteri ini hanya menjerumus kepada perbezaan pendapat yang tidak mengganggu dasar kedua-dua kementerian itu.

Tetapi beberapa hari lepas apabila Mohd. Redzuan menegaskan keputusan Menteri Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim (MESTECC), Yeo Bee Yin yang mengenakan dua



syarat tambahan kepada kilang nadir bumi Lynas Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (Lynas) sebagai tidak menggambarkan keputusan Kabinet, percanggahan dasar sedemikian amat membimbangkan.

Salah satu syarat yang menjadi pertikaian dua menteri itu ialah mengenai keperluan sisa Water Leached Purification (WLP) dari kilang Lynas perlu dihantar keluar dari Malaysia dipatuhi untuk memastikan pembaharuan lesen operasi diberikan kepada syarikat tersebut.

“Keputusan Kabinet jelas, iaitu membenarkan Lynas terus beroperasi. Soal sisa adalah perkara lain yang perlu ditangani. Tiada keputusan bersama yang dibuat kerajaan untuk menghantar sisa itu ke Australia,” tegas Mohd. Redzuan yang jelas bertentangan dengan syarat telah dikenakan MESTECC.

Masalahnya, dua syarat tersebut telah dikemukakan kepada Lynas pada Disember lepas lagi dan ia menjadi perdebatan umum apabila Pengarah Urusan dan Ketua Eksekutif Lynas, Amanda Lacaze mendakwa keputusan MESTECC itu tidak mengikut norma amalan antarabangsa.

Lebih berat lagi dakwaan Amanda bahawa dua syarat tersebut adalah berdasarkan politik dan bukannya sains.

Sepatutnya isu Lynas ini ditangani pada ketika Amanda membuat tuduhan pada Disember lepas yang sedikit sebanyak telah mencalar kewibawaan kerajaan bukan sahaja dalam hal mematuhi perjanjian antarabangsa tetapi juga dituduh MESTECC menggubal dasar tidak berlandaskan fakta sains.

Menyedihkan, isu Lynas hanya menjadi bahan percanggahan pendapat antara beberapa menteri dan Ahli Parlimen setelah Timbalan Menteri MESTECC, Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis dalam sesi soal jawab Parlimen Isnin lepas menyatakan Kuala Lumpur sedang berunding dengan Canberra dalam hal mekanisme penghantaran balik sisa WLP.

Ini selepas empat bulan selepas isu ini mula timbul. Sekali lagi Dr. Mahathir terpaksa mencelah bagi meredakan keadaan dengan menegaskan kerajaan akan memutuskan perkembangan terbaharu mengenai isu sisa buangan Lynas dalam mesyuarat Kabinet kelak.

“Mungkin akan berlaku perbezaan pendapat mengenai isu berkenaan dan ia adalah biasa. Namun, apa yang diputuskan oleh Kabinet kelak akan dianggap keputusan rasmi kerajaan,” tegas Dr. Mahathir.

Artikel Penuh: <http://www.utusan.com.my/rencana/utama/lynas-oh-lynas-tunggu-kabinet-esok-1.876074#ixzz5ka4iGk4V>

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## Sungai Buloh pun tercemar juga...



*KELIHATAN air Sungai Buloh yang hitam dan berbau.*

**DR. AHMAD ISMAIL**  
**05 April 2019 4:00 PM**

Pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim bulan lepas masih segar dalam ingatan seluruh rakyat Malaysia. Menurut laporan media, kejadian tersebut menyebabkan ramai menjadi mangsa akibat terhidu gas beracun dan 13 sekolah sekitar sungai berkenaan

turut ditutup.

Peristiwa yang berlaku di Sungai Kim Kim banyak mengajar semua pihak agar lebih berhati-hati dalam mengendalikan pencemaran bahan kimia dalam sungai.

Kualiti air sungai mesti dipantau dari semasa ke semasa oleh pihak berwajib dan orang ramai.

Penduduk tempatan juga mesti sentiasa mengawasi kawasan mereka dan melaporkan kepada pihak berkaitan sekiranya ternampak sebarang perubahan kepada kualiti air sungai. Pengetahuan asas tentang kualiti air sudah diajar di sekolah, maka ia bukanlah suatu yang baharu.

Secara amnya kualiti air sungai adalah mengikut Indeks Kualiti Air (IKA) yang digunakan oleh Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) untuk mengukur kebersihan dan kualiti bekalan air yang digunakan untuk kegunaan domestik, akuakultur dan pengairan.

Mengikut laporan JAS 2005, dua buah kawasan tadahan air yang tercemar teruk di Malaysia adalah Sungai Buloh dan Sungai Klang yang mempunyai IKA Kelas IV, sama dengan kualiti Sungai Sepang, Sungai Jinjang dan Sungai Kerayong.

Kajian lain juga ada dilaporkan oleh Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) Tanjong Malim pada 2017 dan International Journal of Water 2014 tentang aktiviti manusia di kawasan berdekatan dan model pemantauan kualiti air Sungai Buloh. Laporan kajian menunjukkan Sungai Buloh berada dalam semua kelas I, II, III, IV iaitu yang paling bersih hingga paling tercemar.

Kawasan yang tercemar adalah yang berdekatan dengan industri, industri kecil dan pasar sepanjang sungai yang memberi kesan terutama kepada kandungan oksigen terlarut (DO).

Sungai-sungai ini sepatutnya sentiasa dipantau dan memastikan kualiti air bertambah baik.

Pembangunan yang pesat menyebabkan kualiti air sungai terjejas dan boleh mengganggu kesihatan manusia serta mencemarkan alam sekitar.



Penggunaan teknologi, penyelarasan pembangunan, pendidikan serta kesedaran tentang kualiti air dan penguatkuasaan undang-undang sepatutnya terus berlaku apabila IKA diperkenalkan.

Kualiti air penting untuk kebajikan masyarakat dan adalah tanggung jawab semua agensi terlibat. Mungkin JAS bertanggungjawab dalam memantau kualiti air sungai tetapi penyelesaiannya adalah secara bersepadu dan melibatkan kepakaran dan bidang kuasa agensi berkaitan.

Pencemaran Sungai Buloh dan cerita tentang penurunan kualiti air sungai, warna air yang hitam dan bau yang tidak menyenangkan memberi kesan kepada aktiviti pantai di sekitar muara sungai berkenaan.

Kawasan ini mempunyai kepentingan dalam penternakan kerang, pelancongan dan habitat kepada burung-burung pantai tempatan dan burung berhijrah.

Hampir 40 spesies burung dapat dilihat di kawasan muara Sungai Buloh dan kawasan pantai berhampiran.

Burung-burung di kawasan ini nampak jinak dan mudah didekati untuk penggambaran.

Bagi penggemar fotografi, burung di tempat ini sangat sesuai bagi mereka.

Kesatuan Antarabangsa Untuk Pemuliharaan Alam Sekitar (IUCN) telah mengkelaskan burung-burung ini sebagai terancam, menghampiri ancaman dan kurang risiko terancam.

Walau apa pun status IUCN berikan, demi kualiti alam sekitar, pendapatan nelayan dan pemuliharaan kepelbagaian burung pantai, perhatian semua pihak amat diperlukan.

Bagi ahli fotografi burung, keunikan burung yang ada di kawasan Sungai Buloh ini mudah didekati dan pemandangan semasa air surut yang cantik terutama pada waktu pagi dan petang antara faktor kawasan ini menjadi tarikan mereka.

Aktiviti ini akan meningkatkan pelancong tempatan dan antarabangsa serta meningkatkan pendapatan nelayan tempatan.

Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia (MNS) adalah pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) berasaskan alam semula jadi tertua yang ditubuhkan pada 1940 bertujuan mempromosikan pendidikan, kajian, kesedaran awam, pemuliharaan, perlindungan dan pengurusan khazanah alam semula jadi Malaysia.

Perjuangan MNS mendapat pengiktirafan dunia dengan menjadi rakan kongsi BirdLife International.

BirdLife International juga mendukung misi yang sama memulihara burung-burung, habitat dan kepelbagaian biologi seluruh dunia melalui kerjasama ke arah kelestarian dalam menggunakan sumber alam semula jadi.

MNS yang beroperasi di Taman Alam Kuala Selangor banyak membantu penduduk Kampung Sasaran Sungai Buloh membangunkan ekonomi mereka melalui penternakan kerang dan pelancongan.



Nelayan juga merupakan ahli tempatan yang menyokong MNS. Mereka diberi pendidikan dan mampu menjadi pemandu pelancong.

Ramai pelancong datang untuk aktiviti penternakan kerang dan memerhati burung.

Kampung Sasaran Sungai Buloh adalah sebuah perkampungan nelayan yang terletak 32 kilometer dari Klang, Selangor.

Penternakan kerang merupakan aktiviti penting yang mendatangkan pendapatan utama nelayan tempatan.

Kawasan tanah lembab yang diliputi hutan paya bakau dan berdataran lumpur menjadikan Kampung Sasaran Sungai Buloh sebagai habitat penting kepada spesies burung pantai tempatan dan burung berhijrah serta burung pemangsa.

Kepentingan kawasan ini dalam penternakan kerang, habitat burung pantai dan burung berhijrah, destinasi pelancongan, aktiviti fotografi penggemar burung maka kawasan ini perlu dijaga dan diuruskan dengan baik.

Antara masalah yang dihadapi ialah pencemaran sepanjang Sungai Buloh. Aliran air perlahan dengan kecerunan antara lima hingga 10 peratus dan ada tempat-tempat yang antara 0.5 peratus hingga satu peratus menerima buangan industri, pertanian dan perumahan mempengaruhi pencemaran air sungai.

Satu program penambahbaikan perlu dilakukan bagi mengurangkan input penemaran ke Sungai Buloh.

Pemantauan berkala perlu dijalankan dan undang-undang perlu dikuatkuasakan. Penduduk tempatan dengan bantuan NGO seperti MNS boleh memulakan program pembersihan bersama penduduk dan semua agensi berkaitan.

Memandangkan kawasan muara sungai dan pantai yang produktif dan penting kepada ekonomi tempatan, kualiti air Sungai Buloh perlu dipantau dan diuruskan dengan baik.

Artikel Penuh: <http://www.utusan.com.my/sains-teknologi/alam-sekitar/sungai-buloh-pun-tercemar-juga-1.876560#ixzz5ka6LDCvR>

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## Villagers worried about arsenic pollution in Sungai Rui



*Mining activities believed to have been the sign of pollution of the Rui River, Gerik, but the level of pollution was still at an alarming level.*

*NSTP/ABDULLAH YUSOF*

By **Zahratulhayat Mat Arif** - April 5, 2019 @ 7:05pm

GRIK: Hundreds of villagers in the district are living in fear following the discovery of arsenic elements

in Sungai Rui.

The villagers claimed that they had known the 60km long river was heavily polluted for many years, but were not aware that arsenic, which poses significant health risks to humans, were among the contaminants.

They are pointing their fingers at nearby mining operations.

They said there were four and five mining sublets believed to be owned by a company operating illegally in Pengkalan Hulu.

The affected villages are Kampung Baru Sungai Rui, Kampung Batu 6, Kampung Kerunai, Kampung Jong, Kampung Parit, Kampung Batang Senang, Kampung Besia, Kampung Besia Lama, Kampung Bandariang and Kampung Bongor.

Yeong Lim Leng of Kampung Baru Sungai Rui said the river had turned murky and had been in a bad condition over the last 10 years, and was becoming worse lately.

The 66-year-old said he believed that mining activities taking place about 30km away from his village were the main cause of the pollution.

“The water has been murky for a long time and sometimes, it appears reddish when it rains.

“Dead fish could even be seen floating when the mining factory released water.”

Yeong said he believed that the mining company which had been operating for more than 100 years failed to filter the water before releasing it into the river.

“I used to plant sweet oranges (limau madu) but it was destroyed due to the contaminated river. “We believe that the China-owned sublets have been using illegal chemical substances that caused the condition to worse,” he said.

Osman Ahmad, 70, of Kampung Bongor said he had been suffering from a skin disease for many years, and believed it was linked to the polluted river, where he went fishing frequently.



“One day, I noticed my skin had started to peel, and soon the affected areas became white.

“I was not sure how I got it, but I believe it was from the river.

“I am currently seeking medication from a skin specialist at Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital, Ipoh,” he said, adding that some of his friends were also affected.

Villagers also claimed that pollution in the river had caused a decline in the fish population, especially loma fish (tiny scale barb), which had previously been available in abundance from August through November.



*The villagers of Bongor village, Osman Ahmad 70, show the effects of skin diseases on his hands believed to be streams of Rui River, Gerik who were polluted when searching for fish on the river several years ago. NSTP/ABDULLAH YUSOF*

Jamaliah Osman, 43, of Kampung Batu 6 said during those months avid anglers from as far away as Kelantan, Penang and Kedah joined the locals to fish.

“Hundreds of kilogramme of lomas were caught, which were sold to dealers who process it into pekasam (fermented fish).

“However, it’s a different story now. The catch has dwindled over the past four years.

“You could see hundreds of dead loma fish floating around.

“The murky water looks like coffee. I am saddened by this turn of event.

“I could get extra income for my family from the river, but now I can’t,” she said.

Khalid Ismail, 60, of Kampung Bandariang said he hoped that the authorities would act to prevent a repeat of the Sungai Kim Kim pollution disaster.

“We have been worried sick following the discovery of arsenic. We hope the authorities can do something about the mining activities.

“We do not want to see more people falling sick, our plantation destroyed and our chances of getting extra income affected.”

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/04/476564/villagers-worried-about-arsenic-pollution-sungai-ru>



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## New waste committee must get tough



*Waste management personnel checking toxic waste containers dumped in Pasir Gudang, Johor, recently. NSTP/HAIRUL ANUAR*

By **Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye** - April 5, 2019 @ 11:11pm

THE setting up of the Toxic Waste Management and Scheduled Waste National Committee is timely and must be supported by all parties as it could tackle indiscriminate disposal of

hazardous waste.

It was reported that the Department of Environment (DoE) had completed the final draft of the establishment of the committee following the chemical spill at Sungai Kim Kim in Pasir Gudang, Johor.

The draft will be sent to the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry for approval.

I believe the committee is the highest platform that could make decisions on how to better manage toxic waste so that the Sungai Kim Kim incident does not recur.

Apart from DoE and other agencies, the committee should include experts from the institutions of higher learning and the private sector.

They must study how the toxic and scheduled waste is being handled in developed countries in a way that does not harm their people and the environment.

They must find ways to strengthen enforcement based on existing laws, especially the Environment Quality Act 1974 and the Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations 2005.

Despite having the legislation that regulates 77 types of hazardous waste, illegal dumping is rampant due to a lack of enforcement, while the culprits are more interested in evading disposal fees and waste levy.

The incident at Sungai Kim Kim is only the tip of the iceberg.

Apart from illegal dumping by irresponsible people, toxic waste could also originate from rubbish dumps and landfills. Most of our landfills and dumpsites are not properly designed, and gases and leachates are poorly collected and treated before being released into the environment. That is why the air near such landfills or dumpsites has an overpowering stench.



Polluted water from such landfills and dumpsites would leach into the ground and contaminate it with hazardous substances

To compound matters, irresponsible people are disposing of hazardous wastes at the landfills, while more illegal dumpsites are cropping up to cater to the increasing demand.

The committee should propose an amendment to the present law to compel those who dump chemicals to pay the cost of rehabilitation of the environment and treatment of people who suffer from their irresponsible act.

**Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, Chairman, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health**

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/letters/2019/04/476628/new-waste-committee-must-get-tough>

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## Smell from illegal dumpsite too much for Balok folk



*Beserah State Assemblyman (ADUN), Andansura Rabu observes illegal dumpsites in Balok area. NSTP/Siti Insyirah Tajuddin*

By **Siti Insyirah Tajuddin** - April 4, 2019 @ 3:50pm

KUANTAN: Some 4,000 residents in Balok here are seeing red over an illegal dumpsite near their housing area.

They are worried that the foul smell and smoke from the site could pose danger to their health and safety.

Balok Baru Rukun Tetangga chairman Shaharuddin Mohamad said the site 'appeared' near the area two years ago and the dumping activities have continued ever since.

"Irresponsible individuals are not only throwing domestic waste items and discarded building materials, but also conduct open burning activities, which is causing air pollution.

"The authorities must monitor and clear this site before the situation worsens.

"Smoke from the landfill blowing into the village could lead to various health implications, especially to children and students," he said when met during a visit by Beserah assemblyman Andansura Rabu to the dumpsite.

Meanwhile, Andansura has urged the authorities to conduct investigations to identify the culprits involved and take stern action against them.



He said checks revealed the land belonged to the state government, and urged the district Land and Mines Office to close the main entrance to prevent vehicles from entering the site.

"There is a possibility that the water from Sungai Nyior which flows nearby might be contaminated. I believe the irresponsible individuals chose to abandon the waste here to save time and money rather than go to the authorised landfill nearby," he added.

Andansura said a three-day operation, which began on April 1, to prevent individuals from throwing rubbish at the site was carried out with police assistance, and other parties such as SWCorp Pahang, Department of Environment and villagers.

During the operation, two lorries were prevented from entering the site.

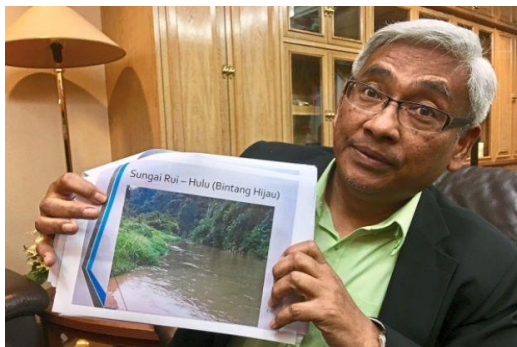
Checks by New Straits Times also revealed that among the materials abandoned at the dumpsite were broken concrete, car engine spare parts, electrical and electronic appliances, and plastic items.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/04/476095/smell-illegal-dumpsite-too-much-balok-folk>

**THE**  
**Star** ONLINE

## ‘Sungai Rui heavily polluted for years’

- **NATION**
- **Friday, 5 Apr 2019**
- by **ivan loh**



***Proof is in the picture: Dr Abdul Aziz showing an image of the tainted Sungai Rui in his office at the state secretariat building in Ipoh.***

IPOH: Sungai Rui in Hulu Perak has been heavily polluted for many years, says a villager.

Kampung Baru Kuala Rui villager Yeong Lim Leng said the river had been in a bad condition for at least 10 years, and its condition worsened lately.

"The water has been murky for a long time. It even appears reddish sometimes when it rains.

"It is also heavily silted as the soil from the riverbank is washed into it," he said yesterday.

When asked about villagers who had developed skin cancer, which is said to be related to the river water, Yeong said he had heard about it but he does not have information on it.

"Folks here have not dared to play in the water for years," he said, adding that the villagers also had access to piped water.



Yeong believes tin mining operations upstream are polluting the river.

“There are some operators who don’t follow regulations. I hope authorities will take action,” he said.

Perak Environment Committee chairman Dr Abdul Aziz Bari said a “low amount” of arsenic had been found in the river.

He also said there had been reports from the state Health Department that some villagers living near the river developed skin cancer, believed to be caused by the water.

“We suspect it is related, due to the presence of heavy metals. But how they got the cancer, we are not sure.

“I have no further information on this and will leave this to the Health Department to find out more,” he said.

However, Dr Abdul Aziz said the amount of arsenic was not considered chronic.

He said it was suspected that the presence of arsenic likely occurred from an imbalance in the natural eco-system due to nearby tin mining activities.

“There’s no need for panic. We are working to rectify the situation,” he said.

He said the Perak Water Board, Minerals and Geoscience Department, Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and the Department of Environment (DoE) were monitoring the situation closely.

However, Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye disputed Dr Abdul Aziz’s statement that people living near Sungai Rui were getting skin cancer.

He said there had been no such reports despite acknowledging that drinking water laced with arsenic in the long run could cause the ailment.

He said checks on water quality in the area found that the water there contained arsenic that was fairly more than the permissible level.

“Arsenic is normally found in underground water in small amount. Its level could go up near areas with mining activities,” he said.

Dr Lee recommended that the Ayer Ganda treatment plant in Hulu Perak be upgraded to remove arsenic from its water source.

Read more at <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/04/05/sungai-rui-heavily-polluted-for-years/#gqBrMFU2urf05wOb.99>



## Low levels of arsenic found in Sg Rui, Perak

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- METRO NEWS
- Thursday, 4 Apr 2019 12:53 PM MYT
- by [ivan loh](#)

**IPOH:** A low level of arsenic has been found in water samples taken from Sungai Rui in Hulu Perak.

Perak Environment Committee chairman Dr Abdul Aziz Bari said the amount was not considered chronic, adding that the state was taking steps to prevent it from becoming serious.

He said the samples were taken in 2016 following complaints about the water being murky and silted.

"Its pH level shows the presence of heavy metal, particularly a small amount of arsenic.

Dr Abdul Aziz said the presence of arsenic likely occurred from an imbalance in the natural ecosystem due to nearby tin mining activities.

"This is inevitable as the mining operation is not an illegal operation or that we lacked enforcement.

"It's just that the operation has disturbed the balance of nature," he said, adding that the mining activity had been going on for many years.

Dr Abdul Aziz also said there had been reports of skin cancer among those who stayed near the river.

"To my understanding, the villages near the river have piped water supplies. We suspect it is related, due to the presence of the heavy metal but how do they get the cancer, we are not sure.

"I'll leave this to the Health Department to find out," he said.

"I have no further information on this but will get more details later," he added.

When asked whether the mining operation would be slowed down, Dr Abdul Aziz said it was beyond him.

He said aside from mining, development, farming and logging activities could also cause the presence of heavy metal in rivers in general.

"To have development without disturbing the environment is not easy but we are trying our best," he added.

Read more at <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/04/04/low-levels-of-arsenic-found-in-sg-rui-perak/#Xze6wT5mKsTSElsu.99>



## Why bother visiting Lynas plant, Wong Tack hits back

FMT Reporters

-

April 5, 2019 8:26 PM

• 5 minute read



*The Lynas Advanced Material Plant in Gebeng, Kuantan. (Bernama pic)*

PETALING JAYA: The chairman of a parliamentary caucus to monitor Lynas Malaysia's operations in Pahang has defended the no-show by his colleagues for a briefing on the plant's operation, saying there

was no need for them to do so.

DAP's Wong Tack said there was no need for the caucus members to visit the plant in Gebeng to "know" that Lynas was allowed by the Department of Environment and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board to "store over a million tonnes of hazardous waste".

The Bentong MP said there was no need to visit the plant to question how the radioactive contaminated waste generated can be accurately quantified from the way it is stored.

Wong Tack also said there was no need to visit the plant when Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad had himself said he did not want the Bukit Merah tragedy to be repeated.

He was referring to the incident in the early 1990s where Malaysia lost one sq km of land in Perak to bury the waste — from the Asian Rare Earth plant in Ipoh, Perak — "under thick cement to prevent radiation from affecting people" and that area was still not safe.



"I wish to state that I applaud my caucus colleagues' stance not to dance to Lynas' tune or entertain their drama," he said in a statement, adding that he had visited the plant in 2018.



*Wong Tack.*

Two days ago, Lynas had hit out at the caucus for failing to turn up for a briefing on its operations despite being invited to do so.

The company's managing director Mashal Ahmad said to date all, except one member of the caucus, had either declined or not responded to their hand-delivered invitations.

Wong Tack went on to hit out at Lynas for taking the caucus to task over its decision to turn down the invitation by the rare earths company.

"The statement was obviously intended to tarnish the credibility and reputation of the caucus members."

He went on to lament that there were ministers who were ignorant and supportive of wrongdoings, as well as regulators who have failed in their duties to enforce the laws.

"However, I also know that the majority of my colleagues in Parliament, from both sides of the political divide, are standing firm with the rakyat on the Lynas issue."

Yesterday, Entrepreneur Development Minister Redzuan Yusof said the government would never compromise on the safety and health of the people.

"Prove that Lynas is unsafe, and the government will shut it down," he said.

He said the government's high-level review committee, comprising highly qualified experts, had certified the safety of Lynas' operations.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2019/04/05/why-bother-visiting-lynas-plant-wong-tack-hits-back/>



## Dr M: Lynas boleh terus beroperasi tapi dengan syarat

Omar Zin

-

April 5, 2019 6:05 PM

• 5 minute read



*Dr Mahathir Mohamad berkata syarikat yang berminat membeli Lynas berjanji membersihkan bahan mentah itu terlebih dahulu sebelum masuk ke Malaysia.*

PUTRAJAYA: Perdana Menteri Dr Mahathir Mohamad berkata Lynas boleh terus beroperasi di negara ini tetapi mesti memenuhi syarat berhubung sisa buangan, selain

membuka peluang kepada syarikat lain membeli syarikat nadir bumi itu.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan mengenakan syarat tambahan iaitu bahan mentah yang dibawa ke Malaysia mesti melalui proses dekontaminasi terlebih dahulu.

"Kami mengenakan syarat tambahan bahawa mereka mesti mengambil sisa itu. Tetapi mereka mahu membuang sisa ke mana? Mereka mahu membawa ke Australia tetapi Australia tidak mahu menerimanya. Jadi kita tidak dapat melakukannya.

"Jadi apa yang kita lakukan adalah membuka peluang perniagaan kepada orang lain. Mereka adalah syarikat yang bersedia membeli Lynas," katanya kepada pemberita hari ini.

Mahathir berkata, syarikat yang berminat itu juga berjanji membersihkan bahan mentah itu terlebih dahulu.

"Jadi apabila bahan mentah datang ke sini, sisa radioaktif akan berkurang. Sisa itu tidak berbahaya kepada semua orang. Jadi Lynas boleh terus beroperasi jika mereka boleh berjanji bahan mentah dari Australia dibawa ke sini selepas membersihkannya."

Lynas baru-baru ini mengkritik kaukus ahli parlimen kerana tidak hadir dalam taklimat mengenai operasi syarikat walaupun dijemput untuk berbuat demikian.



Dalam satu kenyataan, ia mengatakan hanya seorang yang membalas jemputan tersebut.

Lynas juga sebelum ini berkata mereka menjemput Menteri Tenaga Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim Yeo Bee Yin ke kilang mereka sebanyak 8 kali namun tiada sebarang respon.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/2019/04/05/dr-m-lynas-boleh-terus-beroperasi-tapi-dengan-syarat/>



## Lynas can continue in Malaysia, subject to conditions, says PM

Melissa Darlyne Chow

-

April 5, 2019 5:30 PM

• 5 minute read



*Lynas can continue operating if it can promise the raw material from Australia will be brought here after cracking and cleaning it up, says Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.*

PUTRAJAYA: Lynas can continue operating in Malaysia on condition the raw material it brings in from Australia is decontaminated first, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Malaysia had undertaken to open up the rare earths mining business to other companies and there are other companies willing to buy up or somehow acquire Lynas.

“They have given us a promise that in future, before sending the raw material to Malaysia, they will clean it up first. They will crack (a refining process) and decontaminate it somewhere with regards to radioactivity.

“This is so that when the raw material comes here, the (radioactive) content is less and the waste from the raw material is not dangerous to everybody.



“Even Lynas can continue operating if they can promise the raw material from Australia will be brought here after cracking and cleaning it up,” he said during a press conference at his office here today.

Mahathir was responding to a question on whether the Cabinet had discussed Lynas’ operations and if the rare earth mining company will be allowed to continue operating.

Lynas recently criticised members of the parliamentary caucus on Lynas for not turning up for a briefing on its operations despite being invited to do so.

In a statement, it said all but one member had either declined or failed to respond to its invitations which were delivered by hand.

Lynas also previously said it had invited Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin to the plant eight times without receiving a response.

Meanwhile, to another question on Suhakam’s findings that police were behind the disappearances of Pastor Raymond Koh and Amri Che Mat, Mahathir said fresh investigations will take place, but under a new inspector-general of police (IGP).

“We will open a new investigation. But to do that, we will wait because the accusations are directed at the present IGP.

“Wait until the change of IGP and we will set up a group to study whether there is substance in the hearsay evidence by the Suhakam inquiry,” he added.

Suhakam declared Koh and Amri victims of “enforced disappearances” on Wednesday, blaming Bukit Aman’s Special Branch for their abductions after its inquiry which heard testimonies from some 40 witnesses.

Pressure has since been mounting for action to be taken against top police officers, including outgoing IGP Mohamad Fuzi Harun, who headed the Special Branch when the abductions took place.

Koh was abducted on Feb 13, 2017, in Petaling Jaya, while Amri went missing on Nov 24, 2016, after leaving his home in Perlis.

Koh’s abduction was caught on CCTV, showing what looked like professionally-trained men stopping his car on a busy street. However, the police strongly denied suggestions that it was carried out by their men.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2019/04/05/lynas-can-continue-in-malaysia-subject-to-conditions-says-pm/>



## Bauxite mining operations not far from our plant, says Lynas

Bernama

-

April 4, 2019 10:01 PM

• 5 minute read



*The Lynas Malaysia plant operates in the Gebeng industrial estate near Kuantan port. (Facebook pic)*

KUANTAN: Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Lynas) has rebutted an allegation that its plant in Gebeng is far from bauxite mining sites.

Lynas radiation safety, regulations and compliance general manager Prof Dr

Ismail Bahari said in a statement today that the bauxite mining operations – before the implementation of the moratorium – were carried out a short distance from its plant.

“In fact, two previously-used bauxite mining pits are located within 1km of the Lynas Malaysia plant,” he said.

Ismail was responding to media reports quoting Malaysian Nature Society Pahang chairperson Noor Jehan Abu Bakar as saying that the bauxite mines and stockpiles are far from the Lynas plant, about 15km-37km away.

The distance of the bauxite sites was spotlighted after Lynas suggested that bauxite mining activity could be the reason for contamination of groundwater near its plant.

The executive review committee, appointed by the energy, science, technology, environment and climate change ministry, in its report submitted in December 2018, only suggested that further research be conducted on the findings of excessive levels of heavy metals in the groundwater.

The committee, which consisted of experts in various fields, did not point a finger at Lynas in its findings.



Ismail said after starting its operations in 2012, Lynas had welcomed over 17,000 visitors to its plant and hopes more will come to get a better picture of its operations.

“We continue to hope that all members of the parliamentary caucus committee will accept our invitation to visit our plant or meet with the management to ensure they have accurate information about our operations,” he said.

Ismail also reiterated Lynas’ stand that all assessments of their operations should be based on scientific facts and evidence from qualified experts, and not unsupported assertions by unqualified people.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2019/04/04/bauxite-mining-operations-not-far-from-our-plant-says-lynas/>



## Kami akan tutup Lynas jika ada bukti ia tak selamat, kata Redzuan

Robin Augustin

-

April 4, 2019 1:05 PM

*Redzuan Md Yusof berkata, Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Penilaian Operasi Lynas Advance Materials Plant yang terdiri daripada pakar berkelayakan tinggi sudah mengesahkan operasi Lynas di Kuantan adalah selamat. (Gambar Facebook)*



PETALING JAYA: Menteri Pembangunan Usahawan, Redzuan Md Yusof menolak

dakwaan beliau mengutamakan keuntungan berbanding keselamatan dalam kenyataannya mengenai kilang nadir bumi Lynas di Kuantan, Pahang.

Katanya, kerajaan tidak akan berkompromi dengan keselamatan dan kesihatan rakyat.

“Buktikan Lynas tidak selamat dan kerajaan akan menutupnya,” katanya kepada FMT.



Beliau bagaimanapun berkata, Jawatankuasa Eksekutif Penilaian Operasi Lynas Advance Materials Plant yang terdiri daripada pakar berkelayakan tinggi sudah mengesahkan operasi Lynas adalah selamat.

Mengenai logam berat dalam air bawah tanah, Redzuan berkata, jawatankuasa itu tidak mengaitkannya kepada Lynas.

“Ia tindakan tidak bertanggungjawab untuk sesiapa saja mengelirukan orang ramai dengan kenyataan yang tidak berasaskan fakta dan data.

“Ini bukan isu yang patut dipolitikkan sesiapa pun.”

Katanya, ini sebabnya penting untuk Kabinet membuat keputusan muktamad mengenai pengurusan sisa Lynas kerana ia akan mengambil kira semua pertimbangan.

Beliau menggesa mereka yang dipertanggungjawab untuk mengkaji isu Lynas supaya melawat kilangnya di Gebeng kerana jawatankuasa penilaian ditubuhkan Putrajaya dan pakar dari Agensi Tenaga Atom Antarabangsa (IAEA) Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu sudah membuat penilaian ke atas loji itu.

Semalam, Lynas membidas kaukus Parlimen memantau operasi kilang itu di Kuantan kerana gagal menghadiri taklimat operasinya, walaupun mereka sudah dipelawa berbuat demikian.

Katanya, semua kecuali seorang ahli kaukus yang menolak atau gagal memberi maklum balas terhadap jemputannya yang dihantar dengan tangan.

Sebelum itu, Lynas berkata, ia mempelawa Menteri Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim, Yeo Bee Yin ke kilangnya sebanyak 8 kali, tetapi tiada respons daripadanya.

Redzuan berkata, penting untuk kerajaan dilihat berpendirian konsisten dan sebab itu menteri perlu memahami keputusan mereka tidak boleh mengatasi Kabinet.

Baru-baru ini, Redzuan dilaporkan berkata, Putrajaya belum membuat keputusan muktamad berhubung penghantaran balik sisa radioaktif Lynas ke Australia, selepas kementerian Yeo dilaporkan berkata, sebuah pasukan petugas ditubuhkan kerajaan untuk memudahkan proses itu.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/bahasa/2019/04/04/kami-akan-tutup-lynas-jika-ada-bukti-ia-tak-selamat-kata-redzuan/>



## Transfer for Johor DoE director who handled Sg Kim Kim chemical dumping

FMT Reporters

April 4, 2019 10:50 PM



*Outgoing Johor DoE director Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh.*

JOHOR BAHRU: The Johor director of the Department of Environment (DoE) Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh has been transferred to the energy, science, technology, environment and climate change ministry effective April 1.

His transfer has drawn a protest from Permas state assemblyman Che Zakaria Mohd Salleh, who expressed his disagreement as he felt Ezanni could have done much more.

The protest has raised questions as to whether Ezanni's transfer was linked to the chemical pollution of Sungai Kim Kim, which was said to have been poorly managed by the Johor Department of Environment, Bernama reported.

Nearly 6,000 people, including many students, fell sick after chemicals were dumped into the river.

Three people, including a driver and two directors of a used tyre processing company, have been charged with the offence.

Ezanni, who confirmed the transfer with Bernama, said this followed his promotion as head of the National Toxic Waste Management and Scheduled Discharge Unit.

"Yes, it's true that I was transferred but this transfer is a positive thing, not negative.

"I received information on the transfer last week and in fact, I am already in Putrajaya now," he said.

This committee has been established by the government to draft standard operating procedures for chemical pollution disasters.

It will decide on any issues related to toxic waste management in future.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2019/04/04/transfer-for-johor-doe-director-who-handled-sg-kim-kim-chemical-dumping/>



1. HOME
2. **MALAYSIA**

## Housing will be under one roof in the future, says minister

Published 5 days ago on 04 April 2019

By Azril Annuar



*Zuraida Kamaruddin speaks to reporters during the press conference in Parliament in Kuala Lumpur April 2, 2019. — Picture by Ahmad Zamzahuri*

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 — The nation's housing needs will be managed by a single ministry in the future, said Housing and Local Authority Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

In her winding-up speech on the Supplementary Supply Bill today, Zuraida engaged in friendly banter with Pasir Salak MP Datuk Seri Tajuddin Rahman who told her that as housing is parked under multiple agencies, it incurs a lot more in terms of management costs.

“We should place all housing projects and needs under the Housing and Local Government Ministry instead of multiple agencies. This incurs tens of thousands (a month) in management costs.

“You should be the only one managing our (the nation's) housing needs,” Tajuddin remarked after Zuraida said that rural housing projects do not fall under her ministry's purview.

“In the long term, we should be moving into that direction,” Zuraida said.

“I am ahead of time,” quipped Tajuddin.

“But you didn't do it while you were here (in government),” Zuraida replied, triggering a round of laughter in the house.

“That's all right, we will move together in the same direction,” she said.



Kubang Kerian MP Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man (PAS) then asked if the government will also assist the poor who own land in rural areas including Felda settlements to build affordable homes there instead of purchasing affordable homes constructed by developers.

The minister said there was no allocation for such a programme and that Felda land is beyond her ministry's authority.

However, she promised to speak to the Rural Development Ministry about the PAS lawmaker's suggestion.

"We need to allow the Housing Ministry to stabilise first before we expand to cover all housing needs in the country so it will be standardised with policy and law.

"When I first entered the ministry, I assumed all housing matters fall under the Housing Ministry but that isn't the case," she said.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2019/04/04/housing-will-be-under-one-roof-in-the-future-says-minister/1739809>

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HOME

**MALAYSIA**

## **Johor Environment Dept director transferred to Putrajaya**

Published **5 days ago** on **04 April 2019**

JOHOR BARU, April 4 — The Johor Director of the Department of Environment (DOE), Datuk Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh has been transferred to the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climatic Change (MESTECC) effective April 1, this year.

Mohammad Ezanni who confirmed the matter to Bernama said the transfer order followed his promotion as head of the National Toxic Waste Management and Scheduled Discharge Unit.

"Yes, it's true that I was transferred but this (transfer) is a positive thing, not negative.

"I received information on the transfer last week and in fact I am already in Putrajaya now," he said.



At a function this afternoon, State Assemblyman for Permas, Datuk Che Zakaria Mohd Salleh expressed disagreement on the transfer of Mohammad Ezanni as he felt that “much more could have been done by him.”

The protest thus raised a question as to whether Mohammad Ezanni’s transfer was linked to the chemical pollution of Sungai Kim Kim which was said to be poorly managed by the Johor Department of Environment. — Bernama