

20 AUG 2003

Perak-Gold

PERAK WANTS TO CONFIRM GOLD FIND IN SUNGAI SIPUT

IPOH, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the State Government needs to confirm claims that gold has been found in Sungai Siput before further decisions can be made.

He said if the claims were true, research needed to be carried out to ascertain whether there was a gold reserve in the area and if it was worth mining.

However, he said, the State Government needed permission from the Federal Government before carrying out any mining as a freeze on such activities had been announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"But if there is really a gold reserve, we will seek permission from the Central Government," he told reporters after chairing the State Executive Council meeting here today.

He was responding to speculation that gold had been discovered in a 120-hectare area in Sungai Bekot, Sungai Siput.

The find, however, is different from claims of gold discovered in Sungai Siput near Felda Chalok Barat, in Setiu, Terengganu, which was reported by the media yesterday.

Tajol Rosli said there was a lot of gold in the country but in small quantities which was not suitable for mining except in Raub, Pahang.

"The question is whether it is viable or not, same as the discovery of gas in the Melintang forest. It is the same as when Belum Valley residents came to buy things in Gerik using small pieces of gold which they found when they were panning," he said.

He said when the State Government allowed the Malaysian Mining Corporation to mine 4,000 hectares in Belum Valley, it was unsuccessful as the reserve was too small.

Meanwhile, Tajol Rosli also announced the appointment of the new State Legal Adviser, Datuk Nor Bee Ariffin, 47, effective from Aug 16.

The Universiti Malaya graduate was a Magistrate in Penang and Perlis before becoming a Sessions Court Judge in Kuala Lumpur in 1989. He was also appointed Senior Federal Council in the Attorney-General's Chambers and later made a Senior Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman before becoming Legal Adviser for Melaka in April 2001.

-- BERNAMA

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