

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	10 MAY 2017

BAUXITE MINING

'Freeze may be extended to year end'

NST
- 10/5/2017

KUALA LUMPUR: The freeze on bauxite mining in Pahang may be prolonged until the end of the year because of the east coast's erratic weather.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said his ministry needed to observe environmental conditions at mining sites during different weather situations.

"The moratorium began in January and could go on well into the end of the year. We cannot open them now because it is the rainy season there.

"Only after the rainy season

can we observe whether rivers will be polluted or not," he said at the launch of the Sime Darby Foundation's Environment Day here yesterday.

He said there were no plans to permanently close the mines.

"There are local businesses to think about. Since the moratorium, many shops had to close. The problem is not the mining industry, but the management of it."

On another matter, he said a draft syllabus for a subject on the environment in schools and universities was almost completed.

Once completed, the secretaries-general of the Natural Re-



Sime Darby Foundation chairman Tun Musa Hitam (left) presenting a token of appreciation to Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (second from left) at the launch of the Sime Darby Foundation's Environment Day in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are Landskap Malaysia patron Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (second from right) and his wife, Tun Jeanne Abdullah. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

sources and Environment Ministry and the Education Ministry would meet for a discussion.

"I am confident the Education Ministry will accept our proposal

to introduce a subject on the environment in schools and universities. One of the reasons we are facing environmental problems is because awareness has not been

instilled from a young age." Present were Sime Darby Foundation chairman Tun Musa Hitam and Landskap Malaysia patron Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.