

**Government To Revisit Mining Industry, Says Mustapa  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- The government is encouraged by the private sector proposal to revisit the country's mining industry amid the booming demand and lucrative prices for the resources, globally.

"We have coal, iron ore and tin. Prices are good. So why not relook at the mining sector and this was one of the proposals made at the domestic investment summit," said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed here Thursday.

Mining has become a big sector in neighbouring countries such as Indonesia, Australia and some parts of Africa.

"(So), it is a good idea. In fact, iron ore mining has made a comeback in some parts of Malaysia and looking at the numbers there has been a big increase in iron ore exports in the last one year. So, it is already happening," he added.

Mustapa was speaking to reporters after the Domestic Investment Summit 2011, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who later moderated at a dialogue session with some 95 government officials, prominent business leaders and corporate sector captains.

Mustapa said land issues were raised as among the main concern in the mining sector.

"They want the federal government to intervene and encourage state governments to be more liberal in granting concessions for the mining sector," he added.

Among the feedback received from the private sector, during the two hour closed-door meeting, was the importance of maintaining political and social stability in the country.

Mustapa said there was also a request for the government to be more aggressive in developing the services sector.

He also said corporate leaders were told that the government attached equal importance to domestic investments as they did to foreign investments in the country.

"There was also concerns expressed about our ability to implement programmes such as the Economic Transformation Programme.

"There was also some feedback on wages which the Prime Minister took note of," Mustapa said, adding that the private sector found the summit to be very useful and it was decided that similar summits be held every six months.

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