KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	04/12/2021 (SABTU)	MUKA SURAT	:	7
JABATAN	:	JMG			

RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

New lease of life for Tasik Chini

T.N.ALAGESH
KUANTAN
news@nst.com.my



The Pahang government has embarked on restoration and rehabilitation work at Tasik Chini with the support from various quarters, including the Orang Asli living near the lake. PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

BIO-DIVERSITY-rich Tasik Chini, located near here, which was once marred by long-standing environmental issues resulting from unregulated mining and land clearing activities is on the path to recovery.

The Pahang government has embarked on restoration and rehabilitation work at the country's second largest freshwater lake with the support from various quarters, including the Orang Asli living near the lake.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said there was now zero-mining activity near the lake after two operators, whose licences were supposed to expire this year, were issued with a stop-work order.

"A moratorium was imposed on the issuance of new licences for mining work and currently there is no mining in the lake area. Two existing operators were ordered to stop their work much earlier before their licence expiry this month.

"The Pahang government has been doing much to restore the lake area and work is ongoing.

"I would say that the lake is enjoying a new lease of life. Efforts to restore the greenery around the mining site on the hills near the lake is progressing smoothly, including the replanting of ground cover crops."

Wan Rosdy said this after the ground breaking for the RM2.8 million Foodlawn.Kome food court in Tanjung Lumpur here yesterday.

Wan Rosdy said the Orang Asli living near the lake were part of the rehabilitation efforts by assisting to produce forest tree seedlings and bamboo saplings suitable to be planted near the lake and former mining areas.

Wan Rosdy, who visited the lake to check on the replanting process last week, said he would be making another trip early next year to ensure that the lake returned as a popular tourist attraction.

Tasik Chini came under the spotlight in early June when news emerged that the Pahang government had given the green light to a royalty-linked company to carry out mining operations in the vicinity of the lake.

However, on June 12, the State Land and Mines director's office clarified the issue by saying that no new mining licences had been awarded since March 2019.

On June 14, Regent of Pahang Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah instructed that the Chini forest reserve be expanded to provide better protection to plants and animals near the lake, and ordered mining work to be stopped.

Wan Rosdy had, on June 25, announced that rehabilitation work at an estimated cost of RM20 million would be carried out in an area covering 600ha in Tasik Chini that was affected by mining activities. Work began last August.