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KENERING PILOT PROJECT

PERAK PLANS 'CLEAN' RARE EARTHS PLANT

MB says non-radioactive ore will be processed into more valuable products

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad speaking at the Executive Talk and New Year Message to Perak civil servants in Casuarina Hotel @ Meru in Ipoh yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

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THE state government intends to establish a non-radioactive rare earth elements (NR-REE) processing centre in the state.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad said the processing centre would work as a downstream industry activity to produce semi-products and final products that are more valuable when compared with raw NR-REE products.

"Perak has explored great opportunities in the NR-REE mining sector, which is a high-value mineral material in the world market with the implementation of a pilot project in Kenering, Hulu Perak."

He said this in his speech at the Executive Talk and New Year Message to Perak civil servants in Casuarina Hotel @ Meru here, yesterday.

When asked about the locations of other NR-REE deposits in Perak besides Kenering, and when the project would start, Saarani said he could not reveal that matter at the moment.

"I can't reveal the details here, but Perak is rich with high-value minerals."

Following this, he said the state government had requested the federal government to consider an allocation of RM20 million for deposit studies to find the potential of other mineral resources in Perak.

"The federal government had approved the allocation before but it has gone 'silent'.

"The allocation is there and we will request to have the allocation again.

"We are confident that Perak is not only rich in lanthanide, but also other mineral sources. By having an allocation of RM20 million, it will enable us to conduct deposit studies on other mineral resources."

On May 23, last year, Saarani confirmed the discovery of lanthanide in the Hulu Perak district, which was found during tin ore extraction work.

On Aug 16, the Gerik District Council gave the green light to carry out lanthanide mining there.

The menteri besar said lanthanide was a more valuable resource than tin as the REE could be used for products such as smartphones, watches and electronics.

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