

# Bateq Orang Asli hope river water will be free of pollution

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**GUA MUSANG:** The Bateq Orang Asli community in Kampung Kuala Koh, near here, hopes their river water will be free of pollution after iron ore mining activity at the site was halted since June 11.

Most residents have welcomed the state government's swift action to prevent the river from being further contaminated.

A check found the area near Kampung Kuala Koh, where iron ore mining had been carried out illegally since two years ago, is now quiet.

Orang Asli village chief Mohamad Pokok, 40, said the mining activity had polluted the river and people who used the water had suffered.

"We are relieved that the iron ore mining issue was addressed and action has been taken."

Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob was quoted as saying that illegal mining activities were halted as the company did not get a permit from the Mineral and Geoscience Department of Malaysia.

A teacher at the Kelantan Religious and Malay Customs Council, Mohd Fadzli Mahmok, said residents had been unhappy with the mining activities at the river site.

"We want the area to be monitored from time to time."



Mining at the illegal iron ore mine in Gua Musang, Kelantan, has been halted since June 11. PIC BY RAMLI IBRAHIM