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Harga Acuan Batu Bara hingga Nikel Kompak Turun pada Awal Maret 2026

Penulis : M Ryan Hidayatullah

HARGA batu bara acuan (HBA) pada periode pertama Maret 2026 mayoritas turun. HBA untuk emas hitam kalori tinggi pun melemah.

HBA terbaru ditetapkan Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral (ESDM) Bahlil Lahadalia lewat Keputusan Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral Nomor 102.K/MB.01/MEM.B/2026 tentang Harga Mineral Logam Acuan dan Harga Batubara Acuan Untuk Periode Pertama Bulan Maret Tahun 2026.

Berdasarkan keputusan tersebut, HBA untuk batu bara kalori tinggi dalam kesetaraan nilai kalori 6.322 kcal/kg GAR pada periode pertama Maret 2026 dipatok US$102,37 per ton. Angka tersebut turun tipis dibandingkan HBA pada periode kedua Februari 2026, yakni US$ 102,87 per ton.

Selanjutnya, HBA untuk batu bara nilai kalori 5.300 kcal/kg GAR ditetapkan pada level US$71,29 per ton pada periode pertama Maret 2026. HBA jenis batu bara ini juga turun dibandingkan periode kedua Februari 2026 senilai US$71,74 per ton.

Lalu, untuk batu bara dengan kesetaraan nilai kalori 4.100 kcal/kg GAR, HBA dipatok sebesar US$47,64 per ton pada periode pertama Maret 2026. Angka itu turun dibandingkan harga acuan kedua Februari 2026 di angka US$47,74 per ton.

Sementara itu, HBA batu bara dengan kesetaraan nilai kalori 3.400 kcal/kg GAR dipatok sebesar US$34,25 per ton. Harga acuan itu naik dari posisi periode kedua Februari 2026 di angka US$33,85 per ton.

Reference Prices for Coal and Nickel to Drop in Early March 2026

Author: M Ryan Hidayatullah

THE BENCHMARK coal price (HBA) for the first quarter of March 2026 mostly fell. The HBA for high-calorie black gold also weakened.

The latest HBA was set by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) Bahlil Lahadalia through the Decree of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Number 102.K/MB.01/MEM.B/2026 concerning the Reference Metal Mineral Price and Reference Coal Price for the First Period of March 2026.

Based on this decision, the HBA for high-calorie coal with a calorific value equivalent of 6,322 kcal/kg GAR for the first period, March 2026, was set at US$102.37 per ton. This figure is slightly lower than the HBA for the second period, February 2026, which was US$102.87 per ton.

Furthermore, the HBA for coal with a calorific value of 5,300 kcal/kg GAR was set at US$71.29 per ton in the first period of March 2026. The HBA for this type of coal also decreased compared to the second period of February 2026 at US$71.74 per ton.

Then, for coal with a calorific value equivalent of 4,100 kcal/kg GAR, the HBA was set at US$47.64 per ton in the first period of March 2026. This figure is lower than the second reference price in February 2026 at US$47.74 per ton.

Meanwhile, the HBA for coal with a calorific value equivalent of 3,400 kcal/kg GAR is set at US$34.25 per ton. This reference price is up from US$33.85 per ton in the second quarter of February 2026.

HBA Maret 2026 periode pertama juga digunakan sebagai dasar perhitungan harga patokan batu bara (HPB) bulan ini.

Selain HBA, Bahlil juga menetapkan harga mineral acuan (HMA) berbagai komoditas mineral periode kedua Februari 2026.

HMA nikel dipatok US$17.103,6/dmt, melemah dibandingkan periode kedua Februari 2026 sebesar US$17.670/dmt.

HMA aluminium juga melemah ke US$3.055,7/dmt dari sebelumnya US$3.129,72/dmt.

Sementara itu, HMA tembaga turun menjadi US$12.878,2/dmt dari sebelumnya US$13.066,44/dmt.

Melalui Kepmen ESDM Nomor 80.K/MB.01/MEM.B/2025 tentang Harga Mineral Logam Acuan dan Harga Batubara Acuan, HBA dan HMA akan terbit sebanyak dua kali dalam 1 bulan, yakni setiap tanggal 1 dan 15. Editor : Denis Riantiza Meilanova

The first period of the March 2026 HBA is also used as the basis for calculating the coal benchmark price (HPB) this month.

In addition to the HBA, Bahlil also set the reference mineral prices (HMA) for various mineral commodities for the second period of February 2026.

The nickel HMA was pegged at US$ 17,103.6/dmt, down from US$17,670/dmt in the second period of February 2026.

HMA aluminum also weakened to US$3,055.7/dmt from US$3,129.72/dmt previously.

Meanwhile, the copper HMA fell to US$12,878.2/dmt from US$13,066.44/dmt.

Through the Decree of the Minister of ESDM Number 80.K/MB.01/MEM.B/2025 concerning Reference Metal Mineral Prices and Reference Coal Prices, HBA and HMA will be published twice a month, namely on the 1st and 15th. Editor: Denis Riantiza Meilanova

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MIND ID Siap Jalankan Peran Strategis

Penulis : Thresa Sandra Desfika

HOLDING Industri Pertambangan Indonesia MIND ID menegaskan komitmennya dalam mendukung implementasi Kebijakan Energi Nasional (KEN) untuk mewujudkan swasembada energi Indonesia.

Komitmen tersebut dibuktikan melalui pelaksanaan Sosialisasi Perdana Peraturan Pemerintah (PP) No. 40 Tahun 2025 tentang Kebijakan Energi Nasional yang diselenggarakan oleh Dewan Energi Nasional (DEN) bersama MIND ID di Jakarta, Jumat (27/2/2026).

MIND ID Ready to Play a Strategic Role

Author: Thresa Sandra Desfika

THE INDONESIAN Mining Industry Holding MIND ID affirmed its commitment to supporting the implementation of the National Energy Policy (KEN) to realize Indonesia's energy self-sufficiency.

This commitment was demonstrated through the implementation of the Initial Socialization of Government Regulation (PP) No. 40 of 2025 concerning National Energy Policy held by the National Energy Council (DEN) together with MIND ID in Jakarta, Friday (27/2/2026).

Kegiatan ini pun menjadi wujud sinergi dan kolaborasi antara pemerintah sebagai pembuat kebijakan dan MIND ID bersama seluruh Anggota sebagai pelaksana strategis dalam mendukung swasembada energi, transisi energi, serta dekarbonisasi nasional.

Sebagaimana diketahui, pemerintah telah menerbitkan PP No. 40 Tahun 2025 tentang Kebijakan Energi Nasional yang menggantikan PP No. 79 Tahun 2014. Regulasi ini menjadi landasan bagi seluruh pemangku kepentingan dalam mewujudkan ketahanan energi, pemenuhan kebutuhan energi nasional, serta percepatan dekarbonisasi dan transisi energi.

Sebelumnya, Presiden Prabowo menyampaikan bahwa kemandirian energi merupakan pilar penting dalam menjaga keberlanjutan pembangunan.

Pemerintah pun terus mendorong optimalisasi sumber daya nasional agar Indonesia tidak bergantung pada pihak luar. “Swasembada energi, harus! Nanti ada kelompok, apa bisa? Bisa! Kita sudah hitung, tapi kita punya kelebihan-kelebihan luar biasa,” kata Presiden.

Anggota Dewan Energi Nasional (DEN) Satya Widya Yudha menyampaikan bahwa kebijakan tersebut diselaraskan dengan target pertumbuhan ekonomi nasional sebesar 8 persen sebagaimana diarahkan Presiden Prabowo Subianto.

Menurutnya, swasembada energi pun akan menjadi fondasi penting dalam memperkuat industrialisasi dan daya saing Indonesia.

"Forum yang sangat penting bagi kita berkolaborasi. Implementasi daripada kebijakan itu adalah kerja sama antara pemangku kepentingan baik itu pemerintah, industri, dan seluruh pemangku kepentingan agar cita-cita negara kita tetap untuk mencapai kebutuhan energi yang cukup tinggi,” jelasnya dalam acara Sarasehan dan Sosialisasi PP No. 40 Tahun 2025 yang dilaksanakan di Jakarta, Jumat (27/2/2026).

This activity also serves as a form of synergy and collaboration between the government as policy makers and MIND ID together with all Members as strategic implementers in supporting energy self-sufficiency, energy transition, and national decarbonization.

As is known, the government has issued Government Regulation No. 40 of 2025 concerning National Energy Policy, which replaces Government Regulation No. 79 of 2014. This regulation serves as a foundation for all stakeholders in realizing energy security, meeting national energy needs, and accelerating decarbonization and energy transition.

Previously, President Prabowo stated that energy independence is an important pillar in maintaining sustainable development.

The government continues to push for the optimization of national resources to reduce Indonesia's dependence on external parties. "Energy self-sufficiency is a must! There will be groups, will it be possible? Yes, it is! We've calculated it, but we have extraordinary advantages," said the President.

National Energy Council (DEN) member Satya Widya Yudha said that the policy is aligned with the national economic growth target of 8 percent as directed by President Prabowo Subianto.

According to him, energy self-sufficiency will also be an important foundation in strengthening Indonesia's industrialization and competitiveness.

"This is a very important forum for us to collaborate. The implementation of this policy requires collaboration between stakeholders, including the government, industry, and all stakeholders, to ensure our nation's goal of meeting its high energy needs remains achievable," he explained at a discussion and socialization event on Government Regulation No. 40 of 2025 held in Jakarta on Friday (2//27/2026).

Direktur Utama MIND ID, Maroef Sjamsoeddin, menegaskan bahwa MIND ID siap menjalankan peran strategis dalam mendukung implementasi KEN.

Melalui pengelolaan mineral dan batu bara yang dijalankan secara terintegrasi serta pengembangan berbagai proyek strategis oleh seluruh Anggota, MIND ID konsisten mendukung kemandirian, ketahanan dan transisi energi nasional.

“Melalui kegiatan sosialisasi hari ini, Grup MIND ID menegaskan komitmen untuk mendukung implementasi Peraturan Pemerintah Nomor 40 Tahun 2025 dengan mengikuti arah implementasi Rencana Umum Energi Nasional,” ujar Maroef.

Untuk mendukung swasembada energi, MIND ID melalui PT Bukit Asam Tbk telah menjalankan pengelolaan sumber daya dan cadangan batu bara secara optimal agar dapat terus mendukung agenda ketahanan energi jangka panjang.

Bukit Asam mengelola cadangan batu bara sekitar 2,88 miliar ton dan sumber daya 5,72 miliar ton, serta proaktif meningkatkan kapasitas produksi melalui pembangunan Coal Handling Facility (CHF) dan Train Loading Station (TLS) 6–7 yang akan menambah kapasitas angkutan hingga 20 juta ton per tahun, sehingga produksi ditargetkan meningkat dari 43 juta ton menjadi lebih dari 60 juta ton per tahun.

Dalam agenda hilirisasi, MIND ID bersama seluruh Anggota mendukung pembentukan ekosistem industri baterai kendaraan listrik hingga energi storage yang dapat mewujudkan ekosistem industri energi terbarukan.

Mineral strategis seperti nikel, tembaga, bauksit, dan timah telah diproduksi dalam bentuk bahan baku yang sudah siap untuk diolah lebih lanjut oleh industri manufaktur.

MIND ID President Director, Maroef Sjamsoeddin, emphasized that MIND ID is ready to play a strategic role in supporting the implementation of KEN.

Through integrated mineral and coal management and the development of various strategic projects by all Members, MIND ID consistently supports national energy independence, resilience, and transition.

"Through today's outreach activities, the MIND ID Group affirms its commitment to supporting the implementation of Government Regulation Number 40 of 2025 by following the direction of the implementation of the National Energy General Plan," said Maroef.

To support energy self-sufficiency, MIND ID through PT Bukit Asam Tbk has carried out optimal management of coal resources and reserves to continue supporting the long-term energy security agenda.

Bukit Asam manages coal reserves of around 2.88 billion tons and resources of 5.72 billion tons, and is proactively increasing production capacity through the construction of Coal Handling Facility (CHF) and Train Loading Station (TLS) 6-7 which will increase transportation capacity to 20 million tons per year, so that production is targeted to increase from 43 million tons to more than 60 million tons per year.

In the downstreaming agenda, MIND ID, together with all members, supports the formation of an industrial ecosystem for electric vehicle batteries and energy storage that can realize a renewable energy industrial ecosystem.

Strategic minerals such as nickel, copper, bauxite, and tin have been produced in the form of raw materials that are ready to be further processed by the manufacturing industry.

“Kami tidak hanya berfokus pada optimalisasi produksi mineral dan batubara, tetapi juga pada peningkatan nilai tambah melalui hilirisasi, penguatan rantai pasok domestik, efisiensi energi, serta pengembangan ekosistem industri berbasis energi yang lebih bersih dan berkelanjutan.” pungkas Maroef. Editor: Theresa Sandra Desfika

"We are not only focused on optimizing mineral and coal production, but also on increasing added value through downstreaming, strengthening the domestic supply chain, energy efficiency, and developing a cleaner and more sustainable energy-based industrial ecosystem," Maroef concluded. Editor: Theresa Sandra Desfika

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Pengendali Trimegah Bangun Persada (NCKL) Divestasi 991 Juta Saham, Segini Cuannya

Reporter: Dimas Andi | Editor: Noverius Laoli

PT TRIMEGAH Bangun Persada Tbk (NCKL) mengumumkan bahwa pengendalinya yaitu PT Harita Jayaraya telah melakukan penjualan saham emiten produsen nikel tersebut.

Dalam keterbukaan informasi di Bursa Efek Indonesia (BEI), Harita Jayaraya menjual 991.134.000 saham NCKL yang terbagi dalam beberapa transaksi dalam periode waktu tertentu.

Transaksi pertama terjadi pada 26 September 2025, di mana Harita Jayaraya menjual 13.134.000 saham NCKL dengan harga transaksi Rp 1.186 per saham atau senilai Rp 15.576.924.000.

Transaksi kedua berlangsung pada 29 September 2025 yang mana Harita Jayaraya menjual 150.000 saham NCKL dengan harga transaksi Rp 1.180 per saham atau senilai Rp 177.000.000.

Harita Jayaraya melakukan transaksi ketiga penjualan saham NCKL pada 14 Oktober 2025 yakni sebanyak 9.600.000 saham dengan harga transaksi Rp 1.203 atau senilai Rp 11.548.800.000.

Trimegah Bangun Persada (NCKL) Controller Divests 991 Million Shares, Here's How Much Profit

Reporter: Dimas Andi | Editor: Noverius Laoli

PT TRIMEGAH Bangun Persada Tbk (NCKL) announced that its controller, PT Harita Jayaraya, has sold shares in the nickel producer.

In an information disclosure on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX), Harita Jayaraya sold 991,134,000 NCKL shares divided into several transactions within a certain time period.

The first transaction occurred on September 26, 2025, where Harita Jayaraya sold 13,134,000 NCKL shares at a transaction price of Rp 1,186 per share or Rp 15,576,924,000.

The second transaction took place on September 29, 2025, in which Harita Jayaraya sold 150,000 NCKL shares at a transaction price of IDR 1,180 per share or a value of IDR 177,000,000.

Harita Jayaraya conducted the third transaction of selling NCKL shares on October 14, 2025, namely 9,600,000 shares with a transaction price of IDR 1,203 or worth IDR 11,548,800,000.

Berikutnya, Harita Jayaraya menjual 3.500.000 saham NCKL dengan harga transaksi Rp 1.277 per saham atau senilai Rp 4.469.500.000 sebagai transaksi keempat pada 6 Januari 2026.

Pada 7 Januari 2026, transaksi kelima terjadi yang mana Harita Jayaraya menjual 2.250.000 saham NCKL dengan harga transaksi Rp 1.412 per saham atau senilai Rp 3.530.000.000.

Adapun pada 26 Februari 2026, Harita Jayaraya melaksanakan transaksi kelima dengan menjual 962.500.000 saham NCKL di harga Rp 1.400 per saham atau senilai Rp 1.347.500.000.000.

Alhasil, Harita Jayaraya telah mengantongi keuntungan dari hasil penjualan saham NCKL Rp 1.382.802.224.000.

"Tujuan transaksi ini untuk investasi dengan status kepemilikan langsung," tulis Harita Jayaraya dalam keterbukaan informasi, Senin (2/3).

Dengan adanya transaksi ini, jumlah saham NCKL yang dimiliki Harita Jayaraya berkurang dari 51.335.566.000 saham (81,36%) menjadi 50.344.432.000 saham (79,79%).

Next, Harita Jayaraya sold 3,500,000 NCKL shares at a transaction price of Rp 1,277 per share or a value of Rp 4,469,500,000 as the fourth transaction on January 6, 2026.

On January 7, 2026, the fifth transaction occurred in which Harita Jayaraya sold 2,250,000 NCKL shares at a transaction price of IDR 1,412 per share or a value of IDR 3,530,000,000.

On February 26, 2026, Harita Jayaraya executed its fifth transaction, selling 962,500,000 NCKL shares at Rp 1,400 per share, or Rp 1,347,500,000,000.

As a result, Harita Jayaraya realized a profit of Rp 1,382,802,224,000 from the sale of NCKL shares.

"The purpose of this transaction is for investment with direct ownership status," wrote Harita Jayaraya in an information disclosure, Monday (2/3).

With this transaction, the number of NCKL shares owned by Harita Jayaraya was reduced from 51,335,566,000 shares (81.36%) to 50,344,432,000 shares (79.79%).

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Vale (INCO) Targetkan Pabrik HPAL Pomalaa dan Morowali Rampung Tahun Ini

Penulis : Nugroho Nafika Kassa

PT VALE Indonesia Tbk. (INCO) mengumumkan bahwa pembangunan pabrik pengolahan nikel atau smelter High-Pressure Acid Leaching (HPAL) di Pomalaa, Sulawesi Tenggara (Sultra) dan di Morowali, Sulawesi Tengah (Sulteng) bakal segera rampung.

Vale (INCO) Targets Completion of Pomalaa and Morowali HPAL Plants This Year

Author: Nugroho Nafika Kassa

PT VALE Indonesia Tbk. (INCO) announced that the construction of its High-Pressure Acid Leaching (HPAL) nickel processing plant in Pomalaa, Southeast Sulawesi (Sultra) and Morowali, Central Sulawesi (Sulteng) will soon be completed.

Pabrik di Pomalaa rencananya selesai pada akhir tahun ini, begitu pun dengan pabrik di Morowali. Namun jika pabrik HPAL Morowali belum bisa rampung di 2026, maka paling lambat targetnya adalah 2027.

Head of External Relations Regional and Growth PT Vale Indonesia Tbk. Endra Kusuma mengatakan dua pabrik pengolahan tersebut masuk dalam proyek Indonesia Growth Project (IGP) perseroan yang telah dimulai sejak 2022 lalu.

IGP Pomalaa adalah proyek tambang dan pabrik HPAL dengan nilai investasi mencapai US$4,43 miliar. Dalam pembangunannya, Vale bermitra dengan produsen baterai EV asal China, Huayou dan produsen mobil asal Amerika Serikat, Ford.

Saat ini progres konstruksi IGP Pomalaa telah mencapai 65,76%. Kendati demikian penjualan bijih mineral telah mulai dilakukan dengan first ore sell dilaksanakan pada 28 Februari 2026 lalu.

Vale mematok target produksi sebesar 300.000 ton limonit per bulan atau sekitar 9.677 ton per hari.

"Jika pabrik HPAL kami rampung, maka akan diproduksi nikel dalam bentuk mixed hydroxide precipitate (MHP) yang dapat digunakan untuk menjadi bahan utama pada baterai kendaraan listrik," ujar Endra Kusuma di Makassar, Senin (2/3/2026).

Sementara itu IGP Morowali adalah proyek penambangan dan pengolahan nikel terintegrasi dengan investasi mencapai US$2 miliar.

Proyek ini bertujuan untuk mendukung pengembangan industri nikel Indonesia dengan fokus pada pengolahan nikel menjadi produk setengah jadi yang penting untuk sektor energi terbarukan dan kendaraan listrik.

The Pomalaa plant is scheduled for completion by the end of this year, as is the Morowali plant. However, if the Morowali HPAL plant isn't completed by 2026, the latest target is 2027.

Endra Kusuma, Head of External Relations, Regional and Growth at PT Vale Indonesia Tbk., stated that the two processing plants are part of the company's Indonesia Growth Project (IGP), which began in 2022.

The Pomalaa IGP is a US$4.43 billion HPAL mining and manufacturing project. Vale is partnering with Chinese EV battery manufacturer Huayou and American automaker Ford to develop it.

Currently, construction progress at the Pomalaa IGP has reached 65.76%. However, mineral ore sales have begun, with the first ore sale taking place on February 28, 2026.

Vale has set a production target of 300,000 tons of limonite per month, or around 9,677 tons per day.

"Once our HPAL plant is completed, nickel will be produced in the form of mixed hydroxide precipitate (MHP), which can be used as the main ingredient in electric vehicle batteries," said Endra Kusuma in Makassar, Monday (2/3/2026).

Meanwhile, the Morowali IGP is an integrated nickel mining and processing project with an investment of US$2 billion.

This project aims to support the development of Indonesia's nickel industry with a focus on processing nickel into semi-finished products that are essential for the renewable energy and electric vehicle sectors.

Saat ini progres IGP Morowali telah mencapai 98,85% dan telah mencatatkan penjualan sebanyak 2,2 juta ton ore di awal 2026.

"Di Morowali, hingga akhir Januari 2026, kami juga telah melaksanakan hydroseeding seluas 26 hektar, serta telah meresmikan lokasi pembibitan berkapasitas 400.000 bibit per tahun untuk reklamasi bekas tambang nantinya," tutur Endra Kusuma. Editor : Ibad Durrohman

Currently, the Morowali IGP has reached 98.85% progress and has recorded sales of 2.2 million tons of ore by early 2026.

"In Morowali, by the end of January 2026, we had also implemented hydroseeding on 26 hectares and inaugurated a nursery with a capacity of 400,000 seedlings per year for future mine reclamation," said Endra Kusuma. Editor: Ibad Durrohman

Bloomberg Technoz

ESDM Disebut Mau Revisi RKAB Nikel pada Juli, Tambah Kuota 30%

Mis Fransiska Dewi

ASOSIASI Penambang Nikel Indonesia (APNI) mengungkapkan telah mendapat persetujuan untuk merevisi Rencana Kerja dan Anggaran Biaya (RKAB) 2026 pada Juli. Revisi RKAB tersebut diyakini mampu mengerek tambahan kuota produksi nikel hingga 30% tahun ini.

“Kemarin setelah kami diskusi [APNI dan Dirjen Minerba Kementerian ESDM] detail, mungkin akan dipertimbangkan untuk pengajuan revisi pada Juli,” kata Sekretaris Umum APNI Meidy Katrin Lengkey saat ditemui Senin (2/3/2026).

Meidy menuturkan maksimal revisi kenaikan RKAB nikel yang disetujui tersebut sekitar 25%-30%. Dengan demikian, kebutuhan *smelter* nikel sekitar 400 juta ton dengan pengurangan RKAB 270 juta ton, serta impor Filipina 23 juta ton, dan penyesuaian RKAB 30% diharapkan mampu memenuhi kebutuhan bijih nikel Tanah Air.

ESDM reportedly plans to revise the nickel RKAB in July, increasing the quota by 30%

Mis Fransiska Dewi

THE INDONESIAN Nickel Miners Association (APNI) announced that it had received approval to revise its 2026 Work Plan and Budget (RKAB) in July. The revised RKAB is expected to increase nickel production quotas by up to 30% this year.

"Yesterday, after we had a detailed discussion [with APNI and the Director General of Mineral and Coal at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources], we will probably consider submitting a revision in July," said APNI Secretary General Meidy Katrin Lengkey when met on Monday (2/3/2026).

Meidy stated that the maximum approved nickel budget revision is around 25%-30%. Therefore, the nickel *smelter's* need for approximately 400 million tons, with a 270 million ton reduction in the budget, 23 million tons of Philippine imports, and a 30% adjustment in the budget, is expected to meet the country's nickel ore needs.

“Namun, maksimal revisi *cuma* 20%-30%, dari total mungkin 25%-30% cukup *lah* ya, imbang. Jadi kan tadi 400 juta dikurang 250 juta ton [RKAB] dikurang 23 juta ton [impor dari Filipina], nanti ditambah 30% di revisi RKAB,” ujarnya.

Baru Vale

Di sisi lain, Meidy mengatakan perusahaan nikel yang mendapat persetujuan RKAB 2026 hingga kini baru PT Vale Indonesia Tbk. (INCO), sedangkan PT Aneka Tambang (Persero) Tbk (ANTM) atau Antam justru belum mendapat persetujuan RKAB.

“Baru Vale, Antam saja belum ya, teman-temannya Antam sendiri belum, baru bauksit dan emas, tetapi dijanjikan oleh Pak Dirjen Minerba, Maret sudah mulai akan disetujui pengajuan RKAB-nya. April sudah bisa berproduksi dan diberi kesempatan untuk revisi pada Juli,” jelas dia.

Sebelumnya, Ditjen Minerba Kementerian ESDM mengumumkan telah menerbitkan RKAB nikel periode 2026 pada Selasa (10/2/2026).

Menurut Dirjen Mineral dan Batu Bara Kementerian ESDM Tri Winarno, kuota produksi bijih nikel yang disetujui berada di rentang 260 juta ton sampai 270 juta ton.

Kuota itu merosot lebar jika dibandingkan dengan target produksi pada RKAB tahun sebelumnya sebesar 379 juta ton.

“[RKAB] nikel sudah kita umumkan hari ini, [target produksinya] 260-270 juta ton, *in between range*-nya itu,” kata Tri saat ditemui di Gedung Ditjen Minerba, Selasa (10/2/2026). (mfd/wdh)

"However, the maximum revision *is only* 20%-30%, perhaps 25%-30% of the total is sufficient, balanced. So, the previous 400 million minus 250 million tons [of the budget] minus 23 million tons [of imports from the Philippines], then 30% will be added in the revised budget," he said.

New Vale

On the other hand, Meidy said that the only nickel company that has received approval for its 2026 RKAB to date is PT Vale Indonesia Tbk. (INCO), while PT Aneka Tambang (Persero) Tbk (ANTM), also known as Antam, has not yet received RKAB approval.

"It's only Vale, not even Antam, and Antam's partners haven't, just bauxite and gold. However, the Director General of Mineral and Coal promised that the RKAB (Work Plan and Budget) submission would be approved in March. Production can begin in April, with an opportunity for revisions in July," he explained.

Previously, the Directorate General of Minerals and Coal at the Ministry of ESDM announced that it had issued the 2026 nickel RKAB on Tuesday (10/2/2026).

According to Tri Winarno, Director General of Minerals and Coal at the Ministry of ESDM, the approved nickel ore production quota is in the range of 260 million tons to 270 million tons.

This quota has dropped significantly compared to the production target in the previous year's RKAB of 379 million tonnes.

"We announced the nickel [RKAB] today, with a production target of 260-270 million tons, *somewhere in* that range," Tri said when met at the Directorate General of Mineral and Coal Building on Tuesday (February 10, 2026). (mfd/wdh)

Kontan.co.id

Indonesia Tidak Bisa Bergantung Impor Filipina untuk Penuhi Kebutuhan Smelter Nikel

Reporter: Sabrina Rhamadanty | Editor: Handoyo

INDONESIA dinilai tidak bisa sepenuh-nya menggantungkan pemenuhan kebutuhan pabrik pemurnian atau smelter nikel melalui impor dari Filipina. Hal ini disebabkan adanya penurunan produksi bijih nikel di Filipina sekaligus keterbatasan kontrak jangka panjang dengan China.

Pemerintah Indonesia sebelumnya me-netapkan Rencana Kerja dan Anggaran Biaya (RKAB) nikel tahun 2026 berada di kisaran 260 juta-270 juta ton.

Namun, angka ini diproyeksikan tidak mencukupi kebutuhan smelter dalam negeri, baik yang menggunakan tekno-logi High Pressure Acid Leach (HPAL) maupun Rotary Kiln Electric Furnace (RKEF), yang diperkirakan mencapai 380 juta-400 juta ton.

Filipina selama ini menjadi sumber impor bijih nikel untuk menutupi selisih antara produksi dalam negeri dan kebutuhan smelter. Namun, penurunan produksi tahun ini membuat suplai dari Filipina diperkirakan tidak memadai.

Menurut Sekretaris Jenderal Asosiasi Penambang Nikel Indonesia (APNI) Meidy Katrin, produksi bijih nikel Filipina pada tahun ini diperkirakan sebesar 50 juta ton. Dari jumlah tersebut, 28-30 juta ton telah dikontrak untuk China.

“Konfirm ada 37 Izin Usaha Pertam-bangan (IUP) yang produksi di Filipina, itu total menghasilkan maksimal 50 juta ton, dimana mereka…

Indonesia Cannot Rely on Philippine Imports to Meet Nickel Smelter Needs

Reporter: Sabrina Rhamadanty | Editor: Handoyo

INDONESIA is considered unable to fully rely on imports from the Philippines to meet its nickel smelter needs. This is due to declining nickel ore production in the Philippines and the limitations of long-term contracts with China.

The Indonesian government previously set the 2026 nickel Work Plan and Budget (RKAB) at around 260 million to 270 million tons.

However, this figure is projected to be insufficient to meet the needs of domestic smelters, both those using High Pressure Acid Leach (HPAL) and Rotary Kiln Electric Furnace (RKEF) technology, which is estimated to reach 380 million-400 million tons.

The Philippines has long been a source of nickel ore imports to cover the gap between domestic production and smelter demand. However, this year's decline in production means Philippine supplies are expected to be inadequate.

According to Meidy Katrin, Secretary General of the Indonesian Nickel Miners Association (APNI), the Philippines' nickel ore production this year is estimated at 50 million tons. Of that, 28-30 million tons have been contracted to China.

"We have confirmed that there are 37 Mining Business Permits (IUP) producing in the Philippines, with a total production capacity of a maximum of 50 million tons. They have…

dimana mereka sudah mendapatkan kontrak dari Cina yang tidak bisa diganggu gugat sekitar 28-30 juta ton," ungkap Meidy dalam agenda APINDO (Asosiasi Pengusaha Indonesia) di Jakarta, Senin (02/03/2026).

Dengan kontrak tersebut, Filipina hanya dapat memasok sekitar 22 juta-23 juta ton bijih nikel ke Indonesia.

"Yang bisa diekspor ke Indonesia hanya 23 juta ton konfirm, gak tau apakah ada penambahan IUP di Filipina atau enggak, tapi sepertinya susah," tambah Meidy.

Sebagai perbandingan, kebutuhan bijih nikel untuk seluruh smelter dalam negeri diperkirakan mencapai 380-400 juta ton tahun ini. Dengan produksi dalam negeri 270 juta ton dan tambahan impor dari Filipina sebesar 23 juta ton, masih terdapat kekurangan sekitar 90 juta ton untuk memenuhi kebutuhan industri.

"Demand yang sebenarnya, bisa dikira 380 juta 400 juta tahun ini (kebutuhan smelter), kalau 270 juta (produksi), impornya 23 juta, artinya ada minus 90 juta," jelas Meidy.

Selain Filipina, dua negara penghasil nikel lainnya, Papua Nugini dan Kaledonia Baru, dinilai memiliki kebutuhan dalam negeri yang tinggi sehingga potensi impor dari kedua negara ini sangat terbatas.

"Sedangkan Kaledonia dan Papua Nugini tidak mungkin untuk kita impor," ujar Meidy.

Potensi Revisi RKAB Nikel di Juli 2026

APNI menyebut kemungkinan adanya revisi RKAB pada semester kedua tahun ini, atau sekitar Juli 2026. Saat ini, RKAB yang berlaku masih mengacu pada data hingga Maret 2026, dengan persetujuan terbaru hanya diberikan kepada PT Vale Indonesia Tbk (INCO).

They have secured a non-negotiable contract from China for approximately 28-30 million tons," Meidy stated at the APINDO (Indonesian Employers Association) meeting in Jakarta on Monday (March 2, 2026).

With this contract, the Philippines can only supply around 22 million-23 million tons of nickel ore to Indonesia.

"We can only confirm that 23 million tons can be exported to Indonesia. I don't know if there will be additional mining permits in the Philippines or not, but it seems difficult," Meidy added.

In comparison, the demand for nickel ore for all domestic smelters is estimated to reach 380-400 million tons this year. With domestic production of 270 million tons and additional imports from the Philippines of 23 million tons, there remains a shortfall of approximately 90 million tons to meet industrial demand.

"The actual demand is estimated at 380 million to 400 million this year (smelter needs). If production is 270 million, imports are 23 million, meaning there is a deficit of 90 million," Meidy explained.

Besides the Philippines, two other nickel-producing countries, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia, are considered to have high domestic demand, so the import potential from these two countries is very limited.

"Meanwhile, it's impossible for us to import from Caledonia and Papua New Guinea," said Meidy.

Potential Revision of Nickel's RKAB in July 2026

APNI stated that there is a possibility of a revision of the RKAB in the second semester of this year, or around July 2026. Currently, the applicable RKAB still refers to data until March 2026, with the latest approval only given to PT Vale Indonesia Tbk (INCO).

“Kita masih menggunakan RKAB yang sampai bulan Maret 2026, kemudian di bulan April kita sudah menggunakan RKAB baru, karena sampai hari ini yang baru disetujui baru Vale (PT Vale Indonesia Tbk) INCO,” jelas Meidy.

Revisi RKAB memungkinkan penambahan produksi maksimal sebesar 30% dari RKAB yang telah disepakati sebelumnya.

“Bulan Maret sudah mulai akan disetujui pengajuan RKAB-nya, bulan April sudah bisa berproduksi dan diberi kesempatan untuk revisi di Juli, tapi maksimal revisi cuma maksimal 20%-30%, jadi 30% cukup lah ya, imbang,” tambahnya.

Sebelumnya, Direktur Jenderal Mineral dan Batu Bara (Dirjen Minerba) Kementerian ESDM Tri Winarno menyebut bahwa angka impor bijih nikel tahun 2026 tidak akan jauh berbeda dengan impor tahun 2025.

“Sekitar 15 jutaan (ton),” ungkap Tri di Hotel Borobudur, Jakarta, Kamis (12/2/2026).

Berdasarkan data Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS), volume impor bijih nikel Indonesia pada 2025 mencapai 15,84 juta ton, di mana 97% atau sebesar 15,33 juta ton berasal dari Filipina.

Tri menegaskan, kebijakan impor bijih nikel tidak perlu dikhawatirkan karena tujuannya untuk mendukung industrialisasi di dalam negeri.

"Enggak, enggak (khawatir) tujuannya untuk industrialisasi kan industrinya di Indonesia ya," ujar Tri.

"We are still using the RKAB that runs until March 2026, then in April we will use a new RKAB, because until today, only Vale (PT Vale Indonesia Tbk) INCO has approved it," explained Meidy.

The revised RKAB allows for a maximum increase in production of 30% of the previously agreed RKAB.

"The RKAB submission will begin to be approved in March. Production can begin in April and revisions will be given in July. However, the maximum revision is only 20%-30%. So 30% is enough, it's balanced," he added.

Previously, the Director General of Minerals and Coal (Dirjen Minerba) of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Tri Winarno, stated that the nickel ore import figures for 2026 would not be much different from those for 2025.

"Around 15 million (tons)," said Tri at the Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta, Thursday (12/2/2026).

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia's nickel ore import volume in 2025 will reach 15.84 million tons, of which 97%, or 15.33 million tons, will come from the Philippines.

Tri emphasized that there is no need to worry about the nickel ore import policy because its aim is to support domestic industrialization.

"No, I'm not worried. The goal is to industrialize the industry in Indonesia," said Tri.

Tribun-Timur.com

Konflik AS-Israel dan Iran Berpotensi Ganggu Industri Tambang, PT Vale Siapkan Efisiensi

Editor: Sukmawati Ibrahim

KONFLIK panas di Timur Tengah antara Amerika Serikat, Israel, dan Iran dinilai berpotensi berdampak terhadap industri pertambangan, termasuk PT Vale Indonesia.

Head of External Relations Regional & Growth PT Vale Indonesia, Endra Kusuma, mengatakan dampak konflik tersebut kemungkinan besar akan terasa dalam jangka panjang.

“Kalau melihat dampak dalam jangka panjang tentu sangat berdampak. Timur Tengah juga berkaitan dengan salah satu komoditas kita, dan tentunya bukan hanya Vale,” ujarnya dalam Buka Puasa Bersama PT Vale Indonesia Tbk bertajuk Harmoni Ramadan: Kolaborasi Untuk Keberlanjutan di Aloha Coffee and Eatery, Jl Sawerigading, Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan (Sulsel), Senin (2/3/2026).

Menurut Endra, salah satu komoditas yang paling terdampak adalah minyak bumi. Minyak menjadi bahan bakar utama untuk operasional pabrik.

“Bahan bakar kami minyak untuk pabrik. Ketika harga komoditas naik, tentu akan berpengaruh terhadap operasional kami,” jelasnya.

Ia menyebutkan, kenaikan harga minyak dan energi seperti BBM dan batu bara akan berdampak pada biaya produksi.

Komoditas turunan seperti nikel juga berpotensi terdampak karena sangat berkaitan dengan dinamika harga energi global.

The US-Israel and Iran Conflicts Have the Potential to Disrupt the Mining Industry, PT Vale Prepares for Efficiency Measures

Editor: Sukmawati Ibrahim

THE HEATED conflict in the Middle East between the United States, Israel, and Iran is considered to have the potential to impact the mining industry, including PT Vale Indonesia.

Head of External Relations Regional & Growth PT Vale Indonesia, Endra Kusuma, said the impact of the conflict will likely be felt in the long term.

"If we look at the long-term impact, it's certainly significant. The Middle East is also linked to one of our commodities, and it's certainly not just Vale," he said at a fast-breaking event with PT Vale Indonesia Tbk titled "Harmony of Ramadan: Collaboration for Sustainability" at Aloha Coffee and Eatery, Jl. Sawerigading, Makassar, South Sulawesi, on Monday (March 2, 2026).

According to Endra, one of the commodities most impacted is petroleum. Oil is the primary fuel for factory operations.

"Our fuel is oil for the factory. When commodity prices rise, it will certainly impact our operations," he explained.

He said that the increase in oil and energy prices such as fuel and coal would have an impact on production costs.

Derivative commodities such as nickel also have the potential to be impacted because they are closely related to global energy price dynamics.

"Minyak bumi berdampak. Jika terjadi kenaikan, tentu akan memengaruhi biaya. Emas dan energi seperti BBM maupun batu bara juga termasuk komoditas yang terpengaruh," katanya.

Endra menambahkan, pascakonflik biasanya terjadi peningkatan kebutuhan berbagai komoditas untuk proses pemulihan dan pembangunan kembali.

Kondisi tersebut dapat memicu fluktuasi harga di pasar global.

Selain energi, komoditas lain yang turut terdampak adalah sulfur.

Saat ini sulfur masih menjadi salah satu bahan yang sensitif terhadap gangguan pasokan global.

Dampak lain yang turut diperhitungkan adalah biaya logistik.

Ketidakstabilan kawasan dapat memengaruhi jalur distribusi dan biaya pengiriman.

Untuk meminimalkan dampak, PT Vale menyiapkan langkah efisiensi dan pengendalian biaya operasional.

"Kami tentu berupaya meminimalkan dampak dengan menurunkan cost dan meningkatkan efisiensi," ujarnya.

Meski demikian, pihaknya berharap konflik tidak berlangsung lama sehingga dampaknya terhadap industri tidak terlalu signifikan.

"Mudah-mudahan tidak terlalu berdampak," katanya.

Endra menegaskan, sektor pertambangan tetap memiliki peran penting dalam pembangunan dan transisi energi ke depan.

"Bagi kami, tidak ada masa depan tanpa pertambangan dan tidak ada pertambangan tanpa masa depan," tegasnya.

"Oil is impacted. If there's an increase, it will certainly impact costs. Gold and energy commodities like fuel and coal are also affected," he said.

Endra added that post-conflict usually results in an increase in the need for various commodities for the recovery and reconstruction process.

This condition can trigger price fluctuations in the global market.

Apart from energy, another commodity that was affected was sulfur.

Currently, sulfur remains one of the materials that is sensitive to global supply disruptions.

Another impact that is taken into account is logistics costs.

Regional instability can impact distribution channels and shipping costs.

To minimize the impact, PT Vale has prepared efficiency measures and operational cost controls.

"We are certainly trying to minimize the impact by reducing costs and increasing efficiency," he said.

However, he hopes the conflict will not last long so that its impact on the industry is not too significant.

"Hopefully it won't have too much of an impact," he said.

Endra emphasized that the mining sector still has a vital role to play in future development and energy transition.

"For us, there is no future without mining and no mining without a future," he stressed.

Turut hadir Head of Corporate Communications PT Vale Indonesia, Vanda Kusumaningrum, tim komunikasi dan manajemen PT Vale Indonesia. Sumber: Tribun Timur

Also in attendance were Vanda Kusumaningrum, Head of Corporate Communications at PT Vale Indonesia, and the communications team and management at PT Vale Indonesia. Source: Tribun Timur

Bloomberg Technoz

RKAB Batu Bara-Nikel Ditebas, 150.000 Orang Lebih Terancam PHK

Mis Fransiska Dewi

SEJUMLAH asosiasi sektor pertambangan melaporkan lebih dari 150.000 pekerja sektor tambang, khususnya batu bara dan nikel, terancam pemutusan hubungan kerja (PHK) imbas keputusan Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral (ESDM) memangkas rencana produksi dalam Rencana Kerja dan Anggaran Biaya (RKAB) 2026.

Direktur Eksekutif Asosiasi Pertambangan Batubara Indonesia (APBI) Gita Mahyarani mengatakan untuk memproduksi sekitar 1 juta ton batu bara, tenaga kerja yang dibutuhkan diperkirakan sekitar 400-500 lebih orang; mulai dari operator, mekanik, insinyur tambang, pengemudi, *foreman*, dan lainnya.

Dengan demikian, lanjutnya, terdapat lebih dari 100.000 pekerja yyang terancam di-PHK untuk bagian tersebut.

“Jadi kalau hitung-hitungannya, dari 817 [RKAB 2025] ke angka yang sekarang ini, itu lebih dari 100.000 [orang di PHK],” kata kita dalam diskusi RKAB di Jakarta, Senin (2/3/2026).

Meskipun demikian, Gita menggarisbawahi jumlah tenaga kerja yang dibutuhkan dapat bervariasi tergantung pada faktor-faktor seperti teknologi yang digunakan, skala produksi, dan lokasi tambang.

Coal-Nickel RKAB Cut, Over 150,000 Employees Threatened with Layoffs

Mis Fransiska Dewi

SEVERAL mining sector associations reported that more than 150,000 mining workers, particularly those in coal and nickel mining, are facing layoffs due to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources' (ESDM) decision to cut production plans in the 2026 Work Plan and Budget (RKAB).

The Executive Director of the Indonesian Coal Mining Association (APBI), Gita Mahyarani, said that producing approximately 1 million tons of coal requires an estimated workforce of around 400-500 people, including operators, mechanics, mining engineers, drivers, *foremen* , and others.

Thus, he continued, there are more than 100,000 workers who are threatened with layoffs in this sector.

"So, if you do the math, from 817 [RKAB 2025] to the current figure, that's more than 100,000 [people laid off]," we said in the RKAB discussion in Jakarta, Monday (2/3/2026).

However, Gita emphasized that the number of workers required can vary depending on factors such as the technology used, the scale of production, and the location of the mine.

“Ini juga masih belum ke masyarakat yang diluar tambang seperti *catering, laundry*, dan lain-lain,” ujarnya.

Sekadar catatan, Kementerian ESDM sebelumnya berencana memangkas target produksi batu bara nasional menjadi hanya 600 juta ton tahun ini, anjlok 190 juta ton dari realisasi produksi tahun lalu yang menembus 790 juta ton.

Peralatan Mangkrak

Dalam kesempatan yang sama, Asosiasi Jasa Pertambangan Indonesia (Aspindo) menuturkan sebanyak lebih dari 50.000 orang akan berdampak di sektor jasa pertambangan imbas pemangkasan RKAB tahun ini.

“Itu baru dampak langsung dari usaha jasa. Sementara itu, sekitar 10.000 unit peralatan akan *stand by* [tidak beroperasi]. Ini tentu kalau dihitung nilai ekonomi itu besar ya dan kebanyakan dari 10.000 peralatan itu masih *leasing* statusnya,” ucap salah satu perwakilan Aspindo.

Dia menjelaskan kondisi tersebut otomatis akan berdampak pada pembiayaan alat pertambangan seperti penundaan kredit hingga persoalan asuransi.

“Ini tentu membuat situasi makin berat bagi kondisi kondisi perekonomian pada saat ini,” ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Wakil Ketua Umum Aspindo Ahmad Kharis menambahkan asosiasi tengah menanti keputusan final RKAB oleh Kementerian ESDM hingga akhir Maret.

Jika pemerintah masih memberikan ruang peningkatan RKAB hingga 25%, akan ada kemungkinan PHK yang terjadi bakal minim. “Kalau tidak ada penambahan berarti PHK semua,” tuturnya.

Dia menjelaskan saat ini Apindo masih menunggu keputusan pemerintah lantaran tidak bisa mengalokasikan anggaran imbas RKAB yang tak pasti.

"This also hasn't reached communities outside the mine, such as *catering, laundry*, and others," he said.

For the record, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources previously planned to cut the national coal production target to just 600 million tons this year, a drop of 190 million tons from last year's actual production of 790 million tons.

Abandoned Equipment

On the same occasion, the Indonesian Mining Services Association (Aspindo) stated that more than 50,000 people will be impacted in the mining services sector due to the impact of this year's RKAB cuts.

"That's just the direct impact on the service industry. Meanwhile, around 10,000 pieces of equipment will be *on standby*. This certainly has significant economic value, and most of those 10,000 pieces of equipment are still *leased*," said an Aspindo representative.

He explained that this condition would automatically impact the financing of mining equipment, such as credit delays and insurance issues.

"This certainly makes the situation even more difficult for the current economic conditions," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of Aspindo Ahmad Kharis added that the association is awaiting the final decision on the RKAB from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources until the end of March.

If the government still allows room for a 25% increase in the RKAB (Regional Budget) budget, layoffs are likely to be minimal. "If there's no increase, that means all layoffs," he said.

He explained that Apindo is currently still waiting for the government's decision because it cannot allocate the budget due to the uncertain RKAB.

"Awalnya dari pemerintah dahulu, *customer*, baru ke ke kita. *Nah*, bikin budgetnya coba *enggak* bisa, bagaimana kalau kita bikin perencanaan sampai *ngomong profitability* karyawan *enggak* akan bisa," tuturnya.

"Jadi kita ini bekerja tanpa kejelasan, jadi saya berharap pemerintah memahami ini dan sehingga hal-hal yang lebih jelas."

Sektor Nikel

Sementara itu, untuk sektor nikel, baik Forum Industri Nikel Indonesia (FINI) maupun Asosiasi Penambang Nikel Indonesia (APNI) hingga kini sulit meng-alkulasi jumlah pekerja yang akan di PHK.

"Sehingga kami juga menghitung dampak secara detail, tetapi mungkin masih kesulitan," ucap Ketua Umum FINI Arif Perdana Kusumah.

Meskipun demikian, Arif mengatakan jumlah pekerja di sektor nikel dalam proyek hilirisasi pemerintah mencapai 300.000 orang. Angka itu di luar dari pekerja pendukung lainnya sekitar tiga kali lipat atau 900.000 orang.

Dia mencontohkan, salah satu tambang terintegrasi di Maluku Utara mendapatkan kuota RKAB mencapai 62 juta sementara data di Minerbaone yang ia tahu hanya sekitar 12 juta.

"Sedangkan di tambang tersebut pegawainya sekitar kurang lebih 20.000. Jadi dengan relaksasi sampai bulan Maret mungkin mereka bisa menghabiskan karena relaksasinya 25% ya mungkin bisa menghabiskan kurang lebih 10,5 juta. Jadi di April itu tinggal sisa 1,5 juta, 12 juta total. Jadi 20.000 [pekerja] itu mau ke mana? Itu jadi pertanyaan besar juga dari teman-teman di sana," jelas dia.

Sebelumnya, Menteri ESDM Bahlil Lahdalia ingin mengendalikan harga batu bara selepas pemerintah memotong RKAB tahun ini.

"Initially, it comes from the government, then *the customers*, and then it comes to us. *Well*, if we ca *n't* even create a budget, how about we create a plan, and even talk about employee *profitability, we won't* be able to," he said.

"So we are working without clarity, so I hope the government understands this and things will be clearer."

Nickel Sector

Meanwhile, for the nickel sector, both the Indonesian Nickel Industry Forum (FINI) and the Indonesian Nickel Miners Association (APNI) have struggled to calculate the number of workers who will be laid off.

"So we're also calculating the impact in detail, but it might still be difficult," said FINI Chairman Arif Perdana Kusumah.

However, Arif stated that the number of workers in the nickel sector under the government's downstreaming project reached 300,000. This figure is in addition to other supporting workers, which are around three times as many, or 900,000.

He gave an example, one of the integrated mines in North Maluku received an RKAB quota of 62 million while the data at Minerbaone that he knew was only around 12 million.

"Meanwhile, the mine employs approximately 20,000 people. So, with the relaxation until March, they might be able to spend it. With the 25% relaxation, they might be able to spend approximately 10.5 million. So, by April, there's only 1.5 million left, 12 million in total. So, where are those 20,000 workers going? That's also a big question from our colleagues there," he explained.

Previously, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Bahlil Lahdalia wanted to control coal prices after the government cut this year's RKAB.

Bahlil mengatakan kans Indonesia untuk mengendalikan harga batu bara di pasar internasional relatif besar. Dia beralasan Indonesia mengekspor batu bara sekitar 560 juta ton sepanjang tahun lalu.

Menurut dia, realisasi ekspor itu mengambil bagian sekitar 44% atas batu bara yang diperdagangkan di pasar internasional.

“Indonesia memasok batu bara keluar negeri 560 juta, 43% sampai 44%, tapi harganya bukan kita yang kendalikan,” kata Bahlil dalam acara Kuliah Umum Media Indonesia, Jakarta, Kamis (12/2/2026).

Dengan demikian, Bahlil menegaskan, pemerintah bakal menekan produksi dan ekspor batu bara di tengah tren pelandaian harga yang berlanjut tahun ini.

“Jadi kalau kita produksinya banyak, permintaannya sedikit, harganya murah, kita buat saja keseimbangan, berapa konsumsi itu yang diproduksi,” kata Bahlil. (mfd/wdh)

Bahlil stated that Indonesia has a relatively good chance of controlling coal prices on the international market. He cited Indonesia's exports of around 560 million tons of coal last year.

According to him, the export realization took up around 44% of the coal traded on the international market.

"Indonesia supplies 560 million tons of coal abroad, 43% to 44% of which is used for export, but we don't control the price," Bahlil said at a Media Indonesia Public Lecture in Jakarta on Thursday (February 12, 2026).

Thus, Bahlil emphasized that the government will suppress coal production and exports amid the ongoing downward price trend this year.

"So, if we produce a lot, demand is low, and prices are low, we simply balance the amount of consumption we produce," Bahlil said. (mfd/wdh)

Bisnis.com

Ahli Tambang Ungkap Tantangan RI Kembangkan Logam Tanah Jarang

Penulis : Lorenzo Anugrah Mahardhika

INDONESIA dinilai masih menghadapi sejumlah tantangan utama dalam mengembangkan sektor logam tanah jarang, mulai dari keabsahan data hingga teknologi pengolahan yang belum optimal.

Ketua Umum Perhimpunan Ahli Pertambangan Indonesia (Perhapi) Sudirman Widhy memaparkan, saat ini Indonesia belum memiliki data cadangan mineral logam tanah jarang.

Mining Experts Reveal Indonesia's Challenges in Developing Rare Earth Metals

Author: Lorenzo Anugrah Mahardhika

INDONESIA is considered to still face a number of major challenges in developing the rare earth metals sector, ranging from data validity to suboptimal processing technology.

The General Chairman of the Indonesian Mining Experts Association (Perhapi), Sudirman Widhy, explained that currently Indonesia does not have data on rare earth metal mineral reserves.

Sudirman menerangkan, data yang dimaksud adalah informasi mengenai seberapa besar volume mineral logam tanah jarang yang sudah layak secara ekonomis untuk diolah.

Saat ini, kata Sudirman, Indonesia hanya memiliki data mengenai keberadaan potensi mineral logam tanah jarang. Dia mencontohkan, keberadaan potensi logam tanah jarang yang berada di dalam limbah sisa olahan komoditas timah di Bangka Belitung atau potensi kandungan logam tanah jarang yang masih ada di dalam tanah seperti yang diduga berada di wilayah Mamuju, Sulawesi Barat.

"Masih diperlukan proses eksplorasi yang lebih detail seperti melakukan pengeboran [drilling] guna menentukan estimasi perhitungan sumber daya dan cadangan dari potensi mineral logam tanah jarang seperti yang disebutkan," ujar Sudirman kepada Bisnis, dikutip Senin (2/3/2026).

Selain itu, Sudirman juga menyebut, Indonesia masih belum memiliki industri pengolahan dan pemurnian untuk mineral logam tanah jarang. Hal ini membuat kehadiran investor dari negara yang memiliki teknologi tersebut, seperti China dan Amerika Serikat (AS), menjadi penting.

Dia mengatakan, kehadiran para investor diharapkan dapat membawa investasi dan teknologi untuk kemudian membangun industri pengolahan dan pemurnian mineral logam tanah jarang di Indonesia.

"Jadi mereka bukan hanya sekadar menambang dan membawa bahan mentah logam ke negara masing-masing untuk diolah di sana," jelas Sudirman.

Adapun, Perhapi juga meminta pemerintah untuk mengembangkan sektor logam tanah jarang secara maksimal. Menurut Sudirman, sekecil apapun potensi kandungan logam mineral tanah jarang yang dimiliki Indonesia tetap harus diupayakan untuk dapat diolah.

Sudirman explained that the data in question is information regarding the volume of rare earth metal minerals that are economically feasible to be processed.

Currently, Sudirman said, Indonesia only has data on the potential presence of rare earth metals. He cited the potential for rare earth metals in tin processing waste in Bangka Belitung, or the potential for rare earth metal deposits still present in the soil, such as those suspected to exist in the Mamuju region of West Sulawesi.

"More detailed exploration processes, such as drilling, are still needed to determine the estimated resource and reserve calculations for the potential rare earth metal minerals mentioned," Sudirman told Bisnis, quoted on Monday (2/3/2026).

Furthermore, Sudirman also stated that Indonesia still lacks a processing and refining industry for rare earth metals. This makes the presence of investors from countries with this technology, such as China and the United States (US), crucial.

He said the presence of these investors is expected to bring investment and technology to develop a rare earth metal processing and refining industry in Indonesia.

"So they are not just mining and bringing raw metal materials to their respective countries to be processed there," explained Sudirman.

Meanwhile, Perhapi also urged the government to maximize the development of the rare earth metals sector. According to Sudirman, no matter how small Indonesia's potential rare earth mineral reserves, efforts must be made to process them.

Dia mengatakan, logam tanah jarang merupakan kebutuhan industri yang cukup vital dan sangat strategis seperti pada sektor semikonduktor, militer, dan lainnya. Sehingga, proses pengolahan mineral logam tanah jarang harus dipastikan tetap dilakukan oleh pihak Indonesia sendiri.

"Penunjukkan Badan Industri Mineral maupun BUMN Perminas untuk pengelolaan mineral tanah jarang di Indonesia oleh pemerintah menurut kami merupakan hal yang sudah tepat guna memastikan agar ini [logam tanah jarang] tidak dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya oleh pihak asing tanpa adanya kontrol dari pemerintah Indonesia," kata Sudirman.

Potensi Menjanjikan

Sementara itu, Deputi Bidang Sistem dan Tata Kelola Badan Industri Mineral (BIM) Julian Ambassador Shiddiq menilai pengembangan sektor logam tanah jarang Indonesia memiliki potensi yang cukup besar.

"Dari data yang kita miliki saat ini, Indonesia punya potensi sumber daya yang menjanjikan," ujar Julian.

Di sisi lain, Julian menyebut, Indonesia masih akan menghadapi tantangan dari sisi teknologi. Dia menuturkan, teknologi ekstraksi logam tanah jarang saat ini cenderung terbatas karena hanya dikuasai oleh beberapa negara.

Untuk mengatasi tantangan tersebut, Julian menyebut, pemerintah telah memiliki beberapa pilot plan logam tanah jarang. Dia menjelaskan, rencana tersebut akan digunakan sebagai dasar pengembangan teknologi untuk mendukung sektor logam tanah jarang RI.

Dia juga menyebut, sejumlah negara juga telah menawarkan kerja sama untuk teknologi ekstraksi logam tanah jarang. Meski demikian, Julian tidak memerinci negara-negara yang telah menawarkan bantuannya kepada Indonesia.

He stated that rare earth metals are a vital and strategic industrial necessity, serving industries such as the semiconductor, military, and other sectors. Therefore, Indonesia must ensure that the processing of rare earth minerals remains carried out by Indonesia itself.

"We believe the government's appointment of the Mineral Industry Agency and the state-owned company Perminas to manage rare earth minerals in Indonesia is the right move to ensure that these [rare earth metals] are not fully exploited by foreign parties without any control from the Indonesian government," Sudirman said.

Promising Potential

Meanwhile, Julian Ambassador Shiddiq, Deputy for Systems and Governance at the Mineral Industry Agency (BIM), assessed that the development of Indonesia's rare earth metals sector has significant potential.

"From the data we currently have, Indonesia has promising resource potential," said Julian.

On the other hand, Julian stated that Indonesia will still face technological challenges. He explained that rare earth metal extraction technology is currently limited because it is mastered by only a few countries.

To address these challenges, Julian stated that the government has several pilot plans for rare earth metals. He explained that these plans will serve as the basis for technology development to support Indonesia's rare earth metals sector.

He also mentioned that several countries have offered cooperation in rare earth metal extraction technology. However, Julian did not specify the countries that have offered assistance to Indonesia.

"Sudah ada beberapa negara yang menawarkan kerja sama teknologi ekstraksi logam tanah jarang di Indonesia yang sekarang sedang uji karakterisasi bahan baku. Negara mana saja [yang menawarkan kerja sama] belum bisa saya sebut," kata Julian. Editor : Denis Riantiza Meilanova

"Several countries have offered cooperation on rare earth metal extraction technology in Indonesia, which is currently undergoing raw material characterization tests. I can't name the specific countries yet," said Julian. Editor: Denis Riantiza Meilanova

CNBC INDONESIA

Harga Batu Bara Membara, Terbang 10% & Tembus Rekor Tertinggi 1 Tahun

mae, CNBC Indonesia

HARGA batu bara melonjak ke level tertinggi setahun lebih setelah Israel dan Amerika Serikat (AS) menyerang Iran pada Sabtu (28/2/2026).

Kontrak batu bara April pada perdagangan Senin (2/3/2026) ditutup di posisi US$ 128,7 per ton atau terbang 10. Harga ini adalah yang tertinggi sejak 18 Desember 2024 atau lebih 1 tahun 2 bulan.

Kenaikan harga kemarin juga memutus tren negatif batu bara yang ambruk enam hari dalam tujuh hari perdagangan terakhir.

Lonjakan harga batu bara terjadi di tengah memanasnya perang Iran.

Perang telah membuat harga minyak melonjak karena ditutupnya jalur perdagangan utama minyak dan gas di dunia yakni Selat Hormuz. Aksi Iran ini membuat harga minyak melonjak 7% lebih pada Senin sementara harga gas Eropa terbang 50%.

Kondisi ini membuat banyak negara kemudian mengalihkan sumber energi ke batu bara sehingga harganya pun terbang.

Coal Prices Surge, Soaring 10% and Hitting a One-Year High

mae, CNBC Indonesia

COAL prices surged to their highest level in more than a year after Israel and the United States (US) attacked Iran on Saturday (28/2/2026).

The April coal contract closed at US$ 128.7 per ton on Monday (March 2, 2026), up 10 cents. This price is the highest since December 18, 2024, or more than 1 year and 2 months.

Yesterday's price increase also broke the negative trend of coal prices collapsing for six of the last seven trading days.

The surge in coal prices occurred amid the escalating war in Iran.

The war has sent oil prices soaring due to the closure of the world's main oil and gas trade route, the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's actions sent oil prices soaring more than 7% on Monday, while European gas prices soared 50%.

This condition has caused many countries to switch their energy sources to coal, causing prices to soar.

Tak hanya perang, harga batu bara juga memanas karena perkembangan di China. Produsen dan konsumen batu bara China terus menambah kapasitas pembangkit listrik tenaga batu bara baru karena Beijing memprioritaskan keamanan energi dan keandalan jaringan listrik. Investor juga menunggu sinyal dari pertemuan parlemen tahunan China untuk panduan lebih lanjut mengenai prospek permintaan.

Ajang tahunan "Two Sessions" akan berlangsung mulai 4 Maret hingga sekitar 11 Maret, ketika otoritas diperkirakan merilis Rencana Lima Tahun ke-15 (2026-2030) yang akan menguraikan target dan arah kebijakan pembangunan nasional.

Di Amerika Serikat, Presiden Donald Trump bergerak untuk memperkuat sektor pembangkit listrik tenaga batu bara yang sedang tertekan, dengan mengalokasikan dana federal sebesar US$175 juta untuk memodernisasi enam pembangkit. Ia juga menginstruksikan Departemen Pertahanan AS untuk membeli listrik dari fasilitas tambahan guna mendukung industri tersebut.

Dari India dilaporkan produksi batu bara India mencatat kenaikan kuat sebesar 18,51% pada Februari tahun ini dibandingkan bulan yang sama tahun sebelumnya. Produksi dari tambang batu bara captive dan komersial meningkat menjadi 20,49 juta ton (MT), sementara realisasi pengiriman (dispatch) mencapai 17,72 MT, menurut pernyataan resmi yang dirilis pada Senin.

Pertumbuhan tahunan yang kuat ini mencerminkan momentum operasional yang berkelanjutan serta peningkatan aktivitas pertambangan secara progresif di seluruh sektor, demikian isi pernyataan tersebut.

Untuk tahun fiskal 2025/2026 hingga Februari, produksi kumulatif batu bara dari tambang-tambang tersebut mencatat pertumbuhan 11,58% secara tahunan (year-on-year), sementara pengiriman kumulatif meningkat 6,78% dibandingkan periode yang sama tahun sebelumnya.

Beyond the war, coal prices are also heating up due to developments in China. Chinese coal producers and consumers continue to add new coal-fired power plant capacity as Beijing prioritizes energy security and grid reliability. Investors are also awaiting signals from China's annual parliamentary meeting for further guidance on the demand outlook.

The annual “Two Sessions” will run from March 4 to around March 11, when authorities are expected to release the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) that will outline national development policy targets and directions.

In the United States, President Donald Trump moved to bolster the struggling coal-fired power sector, allocating US$ 175 million in federal funds to modernize six plants. He also instructed the US Department of Defense to purchase electricity from additional facilities to support the industry.

India reported a strong 18.51% increase in coal production in February this year compared to the same month last year. Production from captive and commercial coal mines rose to 20.49 million tonnes (MT), while actual deliveries reached 17.72 MT, according to an official statement released on Monday.

This strong annual growth reflects continued operational momentum and a progressive increase in mining activity across the sector, the statement said.

For the 2025/2026 fiscal year through February, cumulative coal production from these mines recorded an 11.58% year-on-year growth, while cumulative shipments increased 6.78% compared to the same period the previous year.

Ekspansi berkelanjutan dalam produksi dan penyerapan ini mencerminkan penguatan efisiensi operasional, percepatan peningkatan kapasitas, serta koordinasi yang lebih baik di sepanjang rantai nilai pertambangan. Terdapat tren kenaikan yang stabil, menunjukkan perbaikan progresif baik dalam kinerja produksi maupun pengiriman.

Sebagai bagian dari reformasi sektor batu bara, India telah beralih dari model yang sebelumnya restriktif menuju pemberian blok tambang batu bara melalui proses lelang kompetitif. India juga melakukan pembatasan penggunaan akhir tertentu menjadi mengizinkan penjualan komersial batu bara.

Rezim berbasis lelang yang diperkenalkan pada 2014 membuka partisipasi sektor swasta, namun masih terbatas untuk penggunaan captive di fasilitas milik sendiri. Pada 2020, sektor ini kemudian dibuka untuk penambangan batu bara komersial oleh pemain swasta.

Lelang blok batu bara komersial dilakukan melalui proses penawaran daring dua tahap, yang mencakup penyaringan teknis dan pengajuan penawaran harga awal kompetitif pada tahap pertama, serta tahap kedua dan final di mana peserta menyampaikan penawaran harga yang lebih baik. CNBC INDONESIA RESEARCH (mae/mae)

This continued expansion in production and absorption reflects strengthened operational efficiency, accelerated capacity expansion, and improved coordination across the mining value chain. A steady upward trend is evident, demonstrating progressive improvements in both production and delivery performance.

As part of its coal sector reforms, India has shifted from a previously restrictive model to awarding coal mining blocks through a competitive auction process. India has also moved from restricting certain end-uses to allowing commercial sales of coal.

The auction-based regime introduced in 2014 opened up private sector participation, but it was still limited to captive use at privately owned facilities. In 2020, the sector was opened to commercial coal mining by private players.

The commercial coal block auction is conducted through a two-stage online bidding process, which includes technical screening and the submission of competitive initial bids in the first stage, followed by a second and final stage in which participants submit improved bids. CNBC INDONESIA RESEARCH (mae/mae)

MINING.COM

Aluminum price jumps as Iran conflict puts Middle East supply at risk

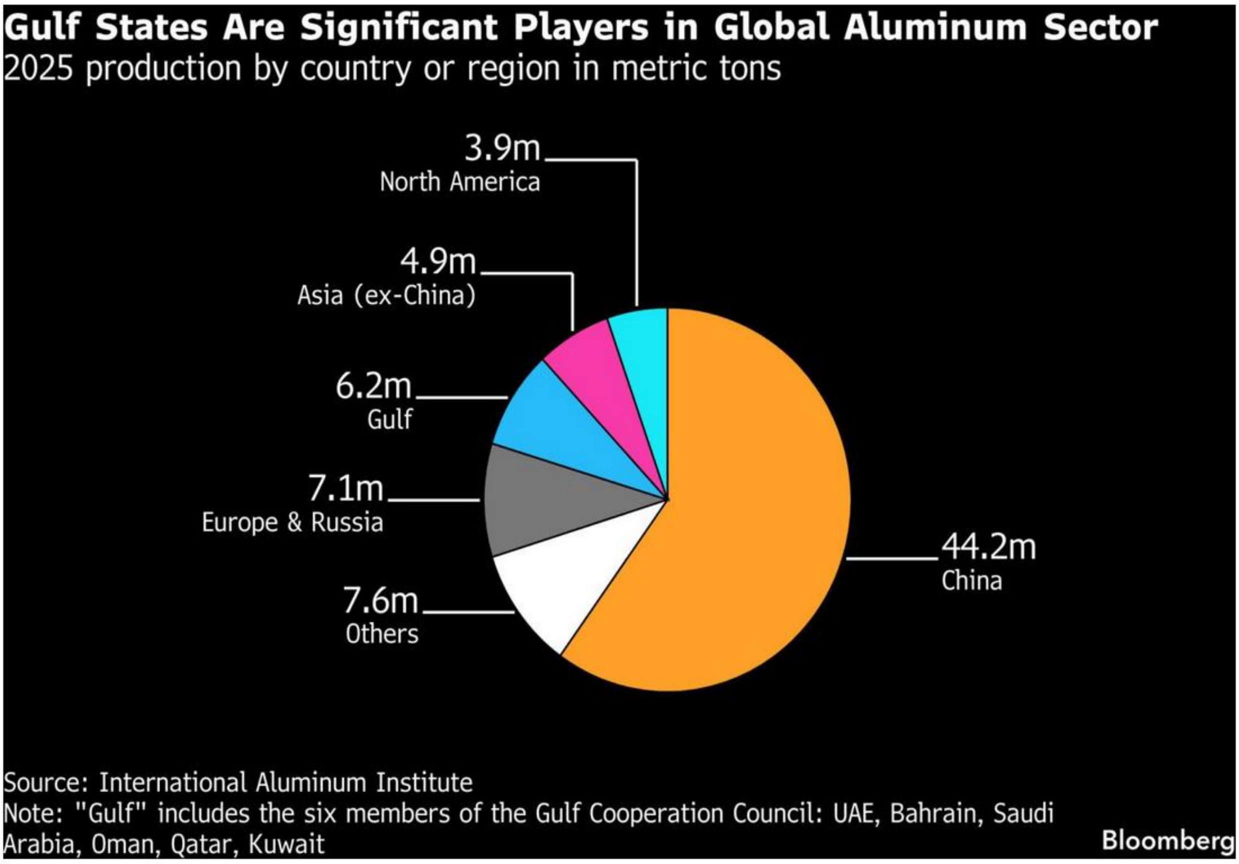
Bloomberg News

ALUMINUM rallied on concerns that a critical supply route for Middle Eastern producers will be disrupted by conflict in a region responsible for a significant chunk of global output.

The metal advanced 1.7% to the highest since January on the London Metal Exchange. The Strait of Hormuz — a trade chokepoint off the coast of Iran — is used by many of the area's major aluminum producers to ship out metal and bring in raw materials.

Conflict in the Middle East spread over the weekend after the US and Israel attacked Iran, and Tehran retaliated with strikes on multiple countries. The region accounts for about 9% of the world's aluminum production capacity, according to consultancy AZ China Ltd., and prices typically have been sensitive to spikes in regional tensions.

Emirates Global Aluminum, the UAE's top producer, operates smelters in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, while Aluminium Bahrain runs one of the world's largest single-site smelters. The UAE confirmed over the weekend that debris from an aerial interception caused a fire at one of the berths at Jebel Ali port in Dubai, several kilometers from EGA's facility.



Potential disruptions to bauxite or alumina flows that feed smelters in the Middle East present a very significant risk, said Li Xuezhi, head of research at Chaos Ternary Futures.

Aluminum price spreads also tightened Monday, with spot contracts rising to trade at a premium to later-dated futures on the LME, a condition known as backwardation that signals spot demand is exceeding supply. Rio Tinto Group also suspended negotiations with Japanese clients over second-quarter aluminum supply, citing US and Israeli strikes against Iran.

The miner — a top aluminum supplier thanks to smelters in Canada and Australia — initially had offered to supply customers in Japan at a premium of $250 a ton over LME prices, but subsequently withdrew the offer, according to people familiar with the negotiations. That initial offer was already the highest since at least 2015, according to two of the people.

Last week, the aluminum market was gripped by options trades with a notional value of several billion dollars that appeared to be wagers on a major shortage of the metal. The call options — which give holders the right to purchase at a predetermined price and time — focused on April contracts targeting a price of $3,300 to $3,500 a ton.

The Middle East war poses uncertainty for metals after a tumultuous start to the year, fueled by US President Donald Trump's aggressive foreign policy, fears for the US dollar and a frenzy of speculative trading in China. Aluminum in London spiked to its highest since 2022 in late January, while the US Midwest premium — a key benchmark — hit a record high above $1 a pound last month.

Trump said US forces will continue bombing Iran until his objectives have been achieved, and called on the Islamic Republic's military and police to surrender or "face certain death." Tehran has responded to the attacks with waves of missiles fired at neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — all key producers of aluminum.

Aluminum rose 1.7% to settle at $3,194.50 a metric ton on the LME.

Base metals markets are also contending with broader fears over the impact of the escalating Iran war on energy prices and the global economy. The dollar rose sharply, a headwind for commodities priced in the US currency. That saw copper erasing early gains to settle 1.8% lower.

The aluminum market now faces a "two-way macro pull" as events in the Gulf threaten to push up regional premiums in Europe and the US, while risk-off positioning and dollar strength "exert a countervailing drag," Citigroup Inc. analysts, including Wenyu Yao, said in a note.

Aluminum smelters typically maintain around one to two weeks of alumina inventory — or more in regions with vulnerable logistics — limiting the immediate risks to production, Citi said. Higher war-risk premiums, elevated freight rates and incremental shipping delays from the Gulf are the most plausible near-term effects, it said.

Iran has about 790,000 tons of annual aluminum smelting capacity, AZ China said in a note. Of that, 50,000 tons to 80,000 tons already has halted as industries take precautions during the conflict. More stoppages may be in store if port activity is halted, the researcher said.

Meanwhile, iron ore closed 0.8% higher at $99.10 a ton in Singapore. The Middle East is a major producer of iron ore pellets, with a 13% of global share, according to BMO Global Commodities Research. Chinese steel exports to the region also have been rising.

KITCO NEWS

China's January net gold imports via Hong Kong rose almost 69%

By Anmol Choubey and Anjana Anil – Reuters

CHINA's net gold imports via Hong Kong in January rose by 68.7% from December, Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department data showed on Friday.

The world's top gold consumer imported a net 20.585 metric tons in January, up from 12.205 tons in December, the data showed.

As the world's leading gold consumer, China's purchasing activities can significantly influence global gold markets.

The Hong Kong data may not provide a complete picture of Chinese purchases because gold is also imported via Shanghai and Beijing.

China's total gold imports via Hong Kong reached 36.544 tons in January, up 30.4% from December's 28.014 tons.

"Chinese New Year likely supported physical gold demand, with gold reaching China ahead of the end of the lunar year," said UBS commodity analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

Physical gold in China traded at premiums of $12-$13 an ounce above the global benchmark spot price this week as bullion's safe-haven appeal shone through after markets returned from the Lunar New Year holiday.

Meanwhile, China's central bank extended its gold buying spree for a 15th month in January, data from the People's Bank of China (PBOC) showed this month.

Gold surged more than 64% in 2025 and has so far gained about 20% this year. The metal hit a record of $5,594.82 an ounce on January 29. The rally was driven by geopolitical flashpoints across the world, the US Federal Reserve's interest rate easing cycle, central bank buying and increased inflows into bullion-backed exchange-traded funds.

(By Anmol Choubey and Anjana Anil; Editing by David Goodman)

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Gold extends gains as Middle East war boosts safe-haven demand

By Reuters

GOLD prices rose for a fifth consecutive session on Tuesday, as investors sought safe-havens amid an escalating U.S. and Israeli air war against Iran, raising fears the conflict could spiral into a protracted regional war and deepen uncertainty.

Spot gold was up 1% at $5,377.21 per ounce, as of 0122 GMT. In the previous session, bullion climbed to its highest point in more than four weeks after the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran over the weekend.

U.S. gold futures for April delivery were up 1.5% at $5,391.90.

The dollar hovered close to a more than five-week high reached on Monday, supported by firm demand and cautious market sentiment.

A stronger greenback typically makes dollar-denominated assets such as bullion more expensive for other currency holders. But in crisis conditions, gold trades more as a risk hedge than as a currency alternative.

Iranian media reported that a senior official from the Islamic Revolutionary Guards said on Monday the Strait of Hormuz has been closed and warned that Iran would fire on any ship trying to pass through the strategic waterway.

This is Iran's most explicit warning since telling ships it was closing the export route on Saturday, a move that threatens to choke a fifth of global oil flows and send crude prices sharply higher.

U.S. President Donald Trump said that he ordered the attack on Iran to thwart what he described as imminent threats from Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, vowed to pursue the conflict for as long as necessary, while warned a "big wave" of further attacks was coming soon, without providing specific details.

The attack on Iran has pitched the Gulf into war, killed scores of civilians in Iran, Israel and Lebanon, thrown global air transport into chaos and shut down shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Spot silver rose 1.4% to $90.67 per ounce on Tuesday, after climbing to a more than four-week high in the previous session.

Spot platinum added 0.6% to $2,316.50 per ounce, while palladium gained 1.6% to $1,795.08.

KITCO NEWS

Malaysia renews Lynas Rare Earths operating licence for 10 years

By Sneha Kumar, Danial Azhar and Rozanna Latiff – Reuters

MALAYSIA renewed Australian miner Lynas Rare Earths' operating licence for 10 years on Monday to import raw materials containing natural radioactive material and process rare earths.

Shares of the world's largest producer of rare earths outside China closed 5.4% higher after rising as much as 7% earlier in the day to A$20.30, their highest since October 21, 2025. The broader ASX 200 benchmark ended largely flat.

Malaysia had raised concerns a few years ago about radiation levels from the cracking and leaching operations during raw material processing. It, however, amended the Lynas licence in 2023 to allow the Australian firm to operate until March 2026.

Under the terms of the latest licence renewal effective from Tuesday, Lynas will no longer be required to build a disposal facility to store radioactive residue from water leach purification from 2031, Malaysia's science ministry said.

After five years, Lynas must stop producing any radioactive waste and any residue produced before that must be neutralized through thorium extraction or other approved treatment methods, it said.

"What they produce before or within five years must be neutralized into waste that is no longer radioactive," minister Chang Lih Kang told a press conference.

Lynas will also be expected to contribute to efforts to develop Malaysia's domestic rare earths industry, with 1% of its annual gross sales to be used as research and development funds, the ministry said.

The miner has been investing in its Malaysia facility, spending about A$180 million ($127.91 million) to build a new separation facility amid rising demand for heavy rare earth oxides sourced outside China.

($1 = 1.4073 Australian dollars)

(By Sneha Kumar, Danial Azhar and Rozanna Latiff; Editing by Subhranshu Sahu)

Australian Mining

Critical minerals surge strengthens Australia's global position

Dylan Brown

AUSTRALIA is staking its claim as the world's go-to supplier of critical minerals, with the latest Geoscience Australia stocktake revealing a surge in exploration, production and economic potential.

The 2025 edition of Australia's Identified Mineral Resources (AIMR) shows 11 critical minerals recorded significant increases in economic demonstrated resources (EDR), including fluorine, graphite, high purity alumina, rare earth elements and antimony.

It found Australia remained number one globally for resources of gold, iron ore, lead, rutile, uranium, vanadium, zinc, zircon and added ilmenite.

Lithium production rose 14 per cent in 2024, platinum group elements increased 12 per cent and rare earth elements climbed seven per cent, making Australia the third largest producer of rare earth elements in 2024. Exploration investment remained robust at $668 million, while mineral resource exports were valued at $308 billion, or 11 per cent of Australia's GDP.

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Madeleine King said the findings reinforce Australia's global standing.

"Australia's diverse geology and abundant mineral resources continue to underpin our economic and national security while supporting secure global supply chains with our strategic partners," King said.

"Critical minerals and rare earth elements are vital to high technology manufacturing, defence applications, and clean energy technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles.

"The latest edition of Australia's Identified Mineral Resources shows we are well placed to support the transition to net zero and to help build more secure global supply chains to support manufacturing and national security for Australia and our trading partners."

The report was launched at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention in Toronto by Western Australia's Mines and Petroleum Minister David Michael.

"Western Australia is a trusted, ethical and reliable supplier of resources to the world and home to valuable deposits of critical minerals, which are essential to the global energy transition, defence and advanced manufacturing," Michael said.

THE ASTANA TIMES
BRINGING KAZAKHSTAN TO THE WORLD

Kazakhstan Expands Coal Capacity to Secure Energy Supply

By Ayana Birbayeva

KAZAKHSTAN plans to meet projected demand for more than 19 million tons of coal annually for new energy projects by expanding production capacity, Vice Minister of Energy Yerlan Akbarov announced during a March 2 meeting with the country's largest coal mining companies.

Akbarov emphasized that the project will go beyond power generation and encompass comprehensive sectoral development, including attracting investment, modernizing fuel and logistics infrastructure, and strengthening workforce capacity.

According to forecasts, demand for thermal coal for new projects alone is expected to exceed 19 million tons per year by 2032, necessitating a prompt increase in production capacity, reported the Kazakh Ministry of Energy.

Production growth plans

According to Yevgeny Masternak, Bogatyr Komir's Director General, the company outlined plans to increase output from 42.7 million tons in 2024 to 45.2 million tons by 2026, with a target of 56.5 million tons by 2032. The company plans to invest 360 billion tenge (US$770 million) through 2032 in new construction projects, equipment procurement, and large-scale modernization.

Alongside technical upgrades, Bogatyr Komir is implementing digital solutions, including a Manufacturing Execution System (MES) and freight flow optimization technologies to enhance operational efficiency and safety.

Shubarkol Komir confirmed its readiness to scale up production to 16.1 million tons by 2026. The company's investment strategy for 2026–2032 outlines 95.5 billion tenge (US$200 million) for technical re-equipment and digitalization. Plans include the second phase of the CPVK-2 facility, modernization of equipment worth 49.4 billion tenge (US$103 million), and the introduction of innovative technologies such as Hovermap 3D mapping systems and robotic haul trucks.

Summarizing the meeting, Akbarov stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to expand the rail wagon fleet and modernize railway infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies to the growing energy sector. According to him, the planned measures are expected to support Kazakhstan's energy security and ensure a stable fuel supply for new generation projects amid rising domestic demand.