

Illegal mines in Muara Enim ordered to close

Muara Enim Regent Muzakir Sai Sohar has ordered the closure of all illegal coal mines operating in Muara Enim regency because their operations damaged the environment and did not contribute to local revenues.

“I ask all elements of the administration to immediately drive out operations of illegal miners who collect profits for their own interests,” Muzakir said on Thursday.

Legal operations are asked to cooperate with local people and other stakeholders in line with existing regulations, he said, adding that he would not approve any new mines that are not in compliance with regulations. “Just complete all the requirements,” he said.

Herman, head of the local coal mining association, said that the community-run coal mines constituted a complex problem because of issues involving peoples’ welfare.

“Local people demand inter-linkage under the smallholders and estate system,” he said. — JP