

Another suspect held in illegal bauxite mining case

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KUANTAN: The anti-graft agency has picked up another Pahang Land and Mines Office (PTG) staff member over illegal bauxite mining.

The 33-year-old general worker was said to have acted as a mole, leaking information of impending enforcement operations by the PTG.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is investigating him on suspicion of receiving between RM250 and RM500 in bribes from illegal miners between March and July.

He was detained shortly after midnight yesterday and has been remanded.

Magistrate Humairah K.M. Haider granted a one-week remand order until Aug 13 to

MACC's deputy public prosecutor Mohamad Fadhly Mohd Zamry.

Last week, nine state PTG officers and a Customs Department assistant director based in Kuantan Port were rounded up by the MACC in a sting operation over the issue.

All of them were believed to be part of a protection syndicate that allowed the illegal mining of bauxite in Bukit Goh and Bukit Sagu despite a moratorium order.

Anti-graft officers have also raided seven locations in Kuantan to uncover more evidence, including the Kuantan Port office, Customs office and several firms involved in bauxite mining.

The Government had extended the moratorium to Dec 31.