



A view of the **bauxite cleaning site** that uses water from two nearby rivers in **Felda Bukit Sagu 1, Kuantan**, yesterday. Pic by NSTP

‘Water shortages due to mining’

KUANTAN: Residents near here are facing water shortages after two nearby bauxite-processing plants were alleged to have used water from two rivers to process ore.

The plants at Felda Bukit Sagu 1 and Felda Bukit Sagu 3 were alleged to be excessively using water from Sungai Taweh and Sungai Rong to separate bauxite ore from dirt.

This had seen a significant drop in water levels at the rivers and had led to water shortage, said Sungai Lembing assemblyman Datuk Md Sohaimi Mohamed Shah.

The Bukit Sagu, Bukit Goh and Bukit Kuantan settlements were fac-

ing water supply shortages, he said.

“The settlers had pleaded for the state government to solve the problem fast, as water shortages have persisted for several months,” he said during a visit to Felda Bukit Sagu 3 yesterday.

Based on observation, the water levels of Sungai Taweh and Sungai Rong were found to be only ankle-deep.

Sohaimi said residents had expressed concern with the coming rainy season as it could lead to water from the bauxite plants overflowing and flooding nearby oil palm plantations.

“Two hours of heavy rain recently caused the plantations to be flooded in ankle-deep water. Thus, we hope the state government will take prompt action to overcome this problem.”

Sohaimi said the processing plants in Felda Bukit Sagu 1 and Felda Bukit Sagu 3, covering 12ha and 20ha, respectively, had been operating for the past four months.

He said the operators had built makeshift dams across the rivers to facilitate the process of diverting water for their work.

“We have no intention to stop the operations, but their action has caused difficulties to the residents.”