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The Science and Art Innovation Department cooperates with the two parties to develop a greenhouse plant to mine Ranau nickel production

KOTA KINABALU: The Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, through NanoMalaysia Corporation and the International Islamic University of Malaysia, is conducting a research project to implement a phytomining project at the Kampong Mongis Greenhouse in [Ranau District](#) .

Science and Technology Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Aham Baba said that [plant mining](#) is the production of metal active materials from high biomass plants, and the project is carried out under NanoMalaysia's Energy Storage Technology Initiative.

[Plant mining](#) uses local native plants, namely Phyllanthus Rufuschaneyi and Rinorea Bengalensis, to produce nickel and cobalt, the active ingredients in lithium-ion batteries, he said .

"The results of this [plant mining](#) study could save the limited supply of active materials in lithium batteries; it could also reduce traditional mining activities for the production of new lithium-ion batteries."

After visiting the Nickel-producing Plant Mining Park in Kampong Menggis yesterday, Aham Baba pointed out that the plant mining project involves the sustainability of batteries and leads the development of sustainable battery technology, which is in line with our country's vision of becoming a high-tech country by 2030. .

He said that this plant mining research could indirectly make the metal mining industry sustainable through the two plants mentioned above, as well as other natural plants that will be discovered later.

He said that the Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation will support projects to obtain intellectual property rights from these plant R&D activities.

He also said that the result of this good cooperation is that all parties, especially the Ministry of Science and Technology Innovation through NanoMalaysia, and Sabah through Sabah Parks, Sabah Biodiversity Center, have made plant mining activities the key to developing the leader in the field of greenhouse mining in our country.

"This agricultural sector is able to increase the income of villagers by creating employment opportunities, while also contributing to the national economy, especially increasing the income of plant-extracting farmers."



Aham Baba (third from right) visits the Nickel Park in Kampong Mongis, Ranau. (Photo by Bernama)



Aham Baba showcases native plants that produce nickel actives at the Mungis Nickel Park. (Photo by Bernama)