

# PRESS CUTTINGS

Mei 2019  
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## Sand mining mafias destroying earth

BANGKOK: Sand mining is ravaging the world's river deltas and coasts, threatening the environment

They're killing the environment and livelihoods, says UN

## UOB KayHian Research: Demand for steel expected to remain soft

**MINERAL ECONOMICS SECTION  
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL AND GEOSCIENCE  
MALAYSIA**

Ibu Pejabat, Aras 9, Menara PjH  
No.2, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, Presint 2  
62100 Putrajaya

**COMPILED BY:**  
**NUR SARAH OTHMAN**  
Geoscience Officer

**MOHD ZAM BIN AMIN**  
Geoscience Assistant

**HEAD OF UNIT/SECTION:**  
**HANIZA BINTI ZAKRI**  
Principal Assistant Director  
(International Trade)

**AZEMI BIN HJ EKI**  
Director (Mineral Economics)



Tel : +603 – 8871 6000  
Fax : +603 – 8871 6145  
+603 – 8871 6148  
Website : [www.jmg.gov.my](http://www.jmg.gov.my)

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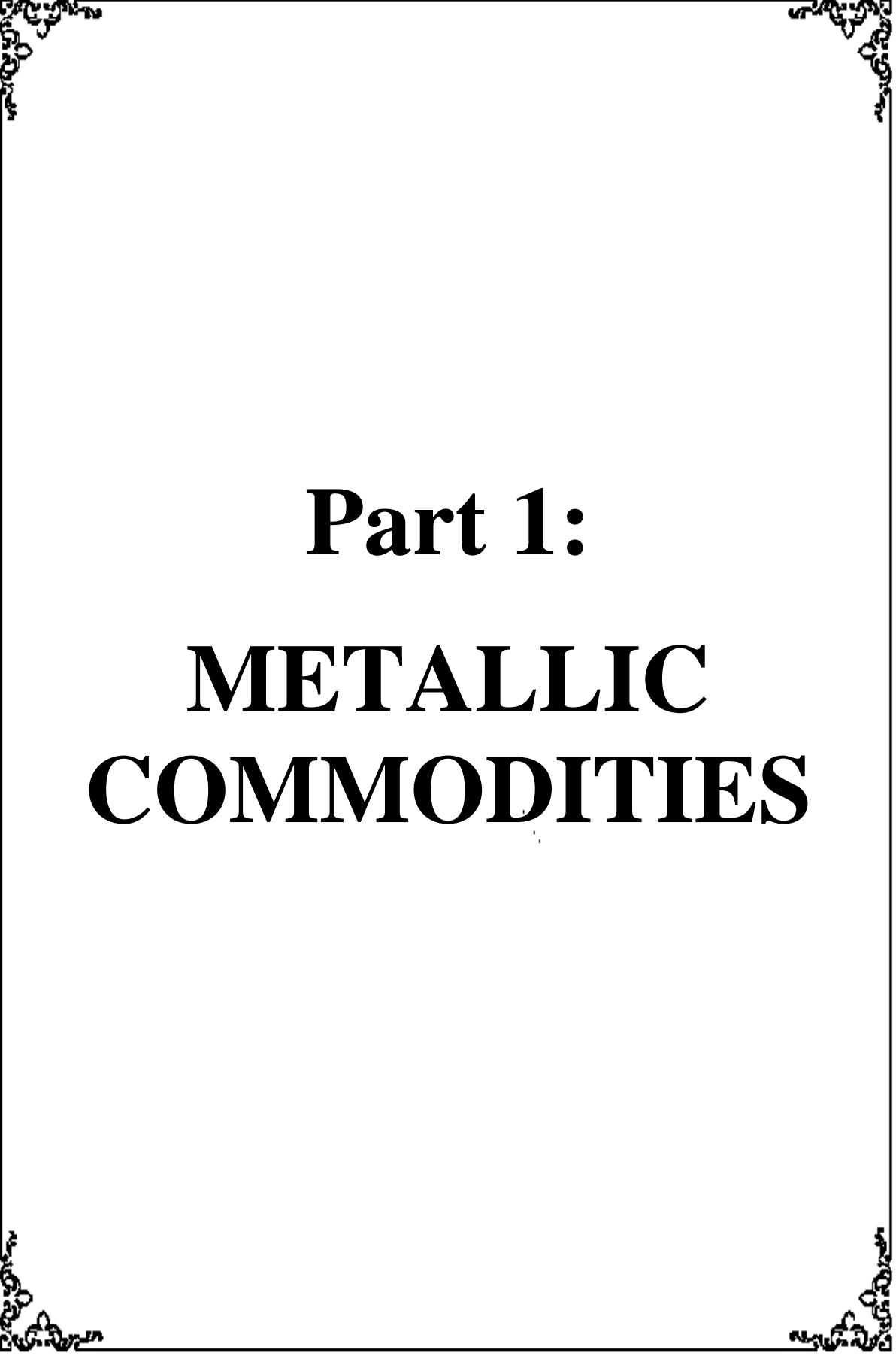
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**Part 1:**

**METALLIC  
COMMODITIES**

Source : The Star  
Date : 08 May 2019 (Wednesday)

## Indonesia pushing against mercury in mining

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia has announced it is beefing up its efforts to phase out the use of toxic metal mercury in sectors such as mining, healthcare and manufacturing.

The government said in a statement that a presidential regulation issued late last month aimed to eradicate the use of mercury in small-scale gold mining by 2025 and in the health sector by 2020.

The government also aims to slash the use of mercury in manufacturing by half current levels by 2030 and cut mercury emissions in the energy sector by 33.2% by the same time.

“Considering that mercury is a hazardous and toxic material that is resistant to decomposition and can accumulate in living organism, the government views the need to regulate its use to avoid any negative impact on health and the environment,” the government said.

As part of this push, it plans for stronger coordination between government agencies to improve monitoring of mercury trade and mining supervision. It also wants to boost education for businesses and communities on the dangers of mercury.

The use of mercury in mining is

already officially banned in Indonesia, but small-scale miners still widely use it to extract tiny pieces of gold.

There are at least 2,500 active small-scale gold mining operations in Indonesia, according to the country’s environment ministry.

The ministry in March launched a programme with the United Nations Development Programme to reduce the use of mercury in six mining communities.

Mercury can also be found in household products such as certain types of light bulbs, thermometers and cosmetics. — Reuters

Source : The Star  
Date : 13 May 2019 (Monday)

## UOB KayHian Research: Demand for steel expected to remain soft

PETALING JAYA: Earnings of local steel players are expected to remain lacklustre, as the weak demand environment continues to persist.

UOB KayHian Research said it expects demand for steel to remain soft for now, with the possibility of gradual recovery at the end of the year.

The research house, which maintained its

"underweight" call on the sector, pending the emergence of clear catalysts, noted that local steel prices had risen for the second consecutive month in April 2019.

Local steel bar prices increased slightly to RM2,223 per tonne last month on the revival of mega infrastructure projects.

Apart from iron ore, international scrap and coal price had also started to ease from a

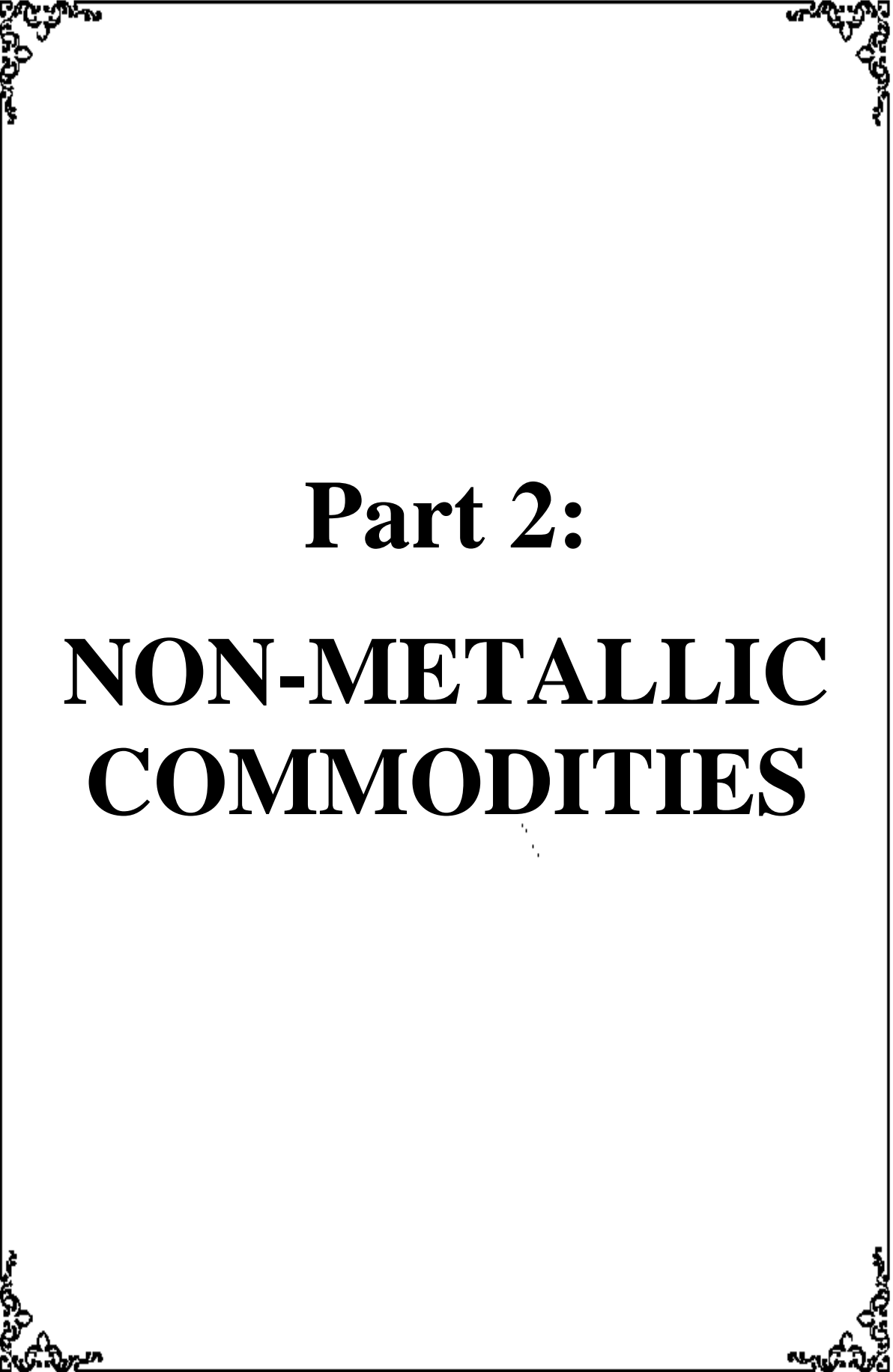
high base last month.

"While the average selling price (ASP) improvement was driven by the cost-push factor and anticipation of the revival of mega and infrastructure projects, we believe earnings would remain lacklustre in the absence of demand," it said in a note yesterday.

The research house added that demand for

steel will continue to weaken in the second quarter, in line with muted construction activities, and compounded by the Hari Raya festive season.

Meanwhile, Maybank Investment Bank Research upgraded CSC Steel Holdings to "buy from sell", on the back of the recently revised anti-dumping duties for the import of cold rolled coils (CRC) steel.



**Part 2:**

**NON-METALLIC  
COMMODITIES**

Source : The Star  
Date : 08 May 2019 (Wednesday)

# Sand mining mafias destroying earth

**BANGKOK:** Sand mining is eroding the world's river deltas and coastlines, damaging the environment and hurting livelihoods from Cambodia to Colombia, as government regulation fails to keep pace with rising demand, warned the United Nations.

Global demand for sand and gravel, used extensively in construction, is about 50 billion tonnes or an average of 18kg per person per day, according to a report published by the UN Environment Programme (Unep).

Extraction in rivers and beaches has increased pollution and flooding, lowered groundwater levels, hurt marine life, and exacerbated the occurrence and severity of landslides and drought, it said.

## They're killing the environment and livelihoods, says UN

"We are spending our sand 'budget' faster than we can produce it responsibly," Joyce Msuya, Unep's acting executive director, said in a statement yesterday.

"For one of the most traded commodities on the planet, it is one of the least regulated activities, and there is very low general awareness about extraction impacts."

Growing populations, increasing urbanisation, land reclamation projects, and rapid infrastructure development in countries such as China and India have increased demand for sand three-fold over the last two decades, the Unep said.

Meanwhile, damming of rivers

and excessive extraction have reduced the sediment carried by rivers to coastal areas, leading to reduced deposits in river deltas and faster beach erosion.

"Communities in the Asian deltas are the biggest losers, with the combined effect of sand mining, hydro-power dams and groundwater extraction causing large areas of land to sink and shrink," said Marc Goichot at the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

"But as long as demand for sand remains high and no alternative sourcing is available, enforcement is close to impossible, as the economy is based on sand," said Goichot,

a water expert who contributed to the Unep report.

Current legal frameworks are not sufficient, and "sand mafias" comprising builders, businessmen and dealers in countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Kenya and Sierra Leone regularly flout existing laws, said the Unep.

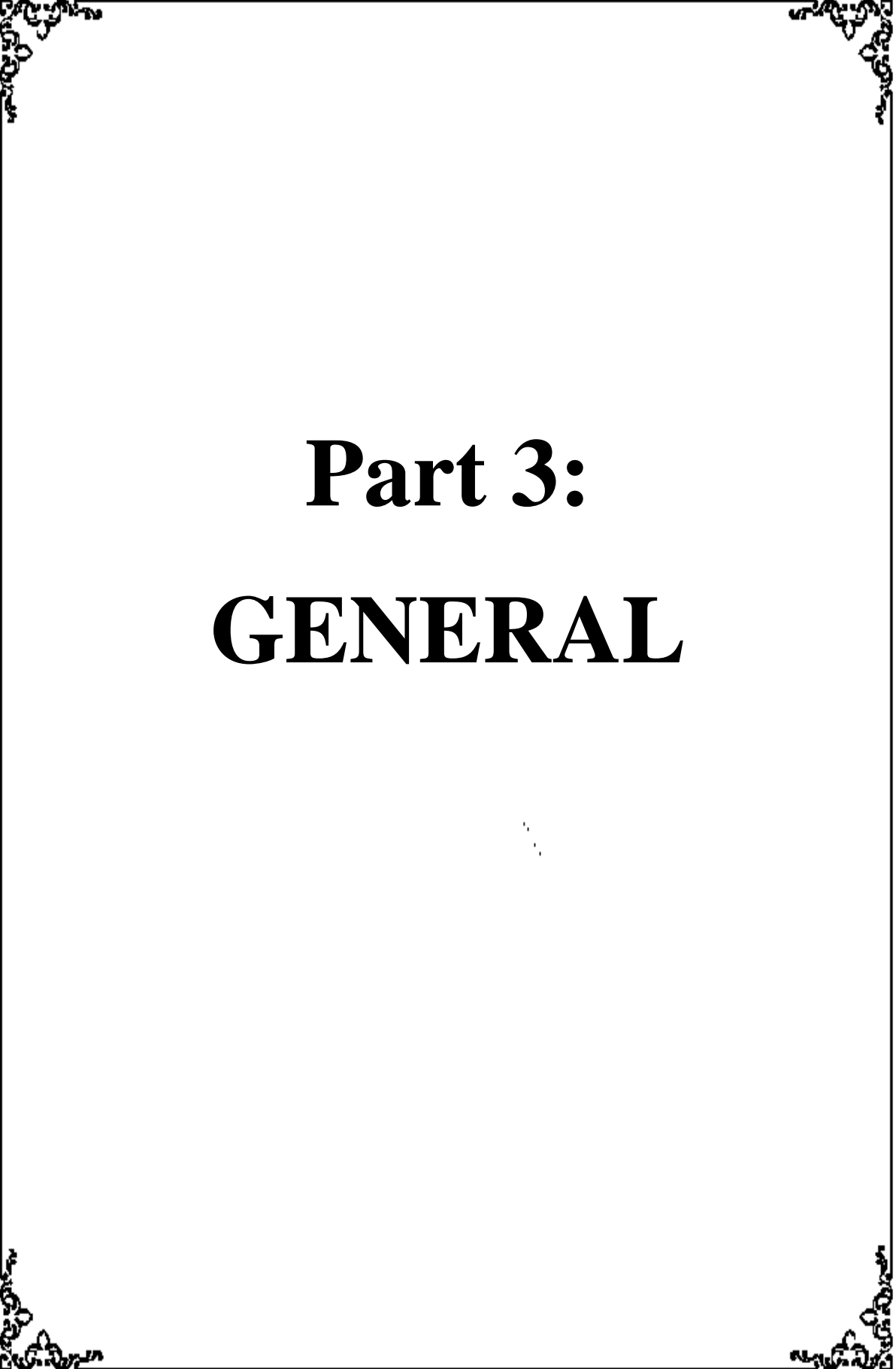
The science to support responsible consumption and extraction is lagging, it said, adding that new technologies and materials that can substitute or limit the use of traditional concrete are growing in use, but still limited.

In India, a 2017 Thomson Reuters Foundation investigation revealed

that workers were drowning while illegally mining sand in some parts of the country.

While awareness of the impacts of sand mining have grown, and more laws are in place, greater efforts are needed to map supply and demand for effective regulation, said Sumaira Abdulali of environmental advocacy group Awaaz Foundation.

"Communities are losing their land and their homes because of sand mining, but they are split over the issue because some people make a living from it, while others say it is ruining their lives," she said. — Reuters



# Part 3:

# GENERAL



Source : The Star  
Date : 09 May 2019 (Thursday)

## 'Make geopark a knowledge-based tourism site'

By SIRA HABIBU  
sira@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Industry players are urged to capitalise on the Langkawi Unesco Global Geopark to promote knowledge-based tourism in the run-up to Visit Malaysia Year 2020.

Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG) founder and president Datuk Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani says the 99-island archipelago offers

an exciting opportunity to learn how the peninsula was formed as geological findings have indicated that it could be the "birthplace" of Malaysia.

"Education in tourism is fast becoming a trend. We should capitalise on the thirst for knowledge-based tourism to showcase our natural and cultural heritage to the world," he said.

Unesco has acknowledged that the Langkawi Geopark boasts the

most complete Palaeozoic sedimentary sequence in Malaysia, dating more than half a billion years, as far back from the Cambrian (ended about 540 million years ago) to the Permian period (ended more than 250 million years ago).

The Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park that features the Machinchang Formation dating back 550 million years is one of the three designated geoforest parks in Langkawi.

These parks protect biodiversity in habitats like mangroves, tidal flats, beaches, estuaries, coral reefs, caves and limestones, while many more harbour various life forms.

There are more than 30 accessible geosites within the three geoforest parks, namely Machinchang, Kilim and Dayang Bunting.

The Kubang Badak bio-geotrail is among the latest geotourism packages offered within the confines of the Machinchang park.

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## **MINERAL ECONOMICS SECTION**

JABATAN MINERAL DAN GEOSAINS MALAYSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL AND GEOSCIENCE MALAYSIA

Ibu Pejabat, Aras 9, Menara PjH  
No.2, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, Presint 2  
62100 Putrajaya

Tel : +603 - 8871 6000

Fax : +603 - 8871 6145

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