

- iv) Some comments on the published Malaysian regulation (standard?) of mineral water;
- v) Some further comments on the Malaysian standard of mineral water (i.e. comparison to CODEX, European, Australian standards, among others);
- v) Conclusion and suggestions.

Through the above presentation, it is hoped that the public at large will be more aware and conscious of the 'real' mineral water. Others who are responsible for the industry, will take the necessary steps and controls so as not only to uphold the good name of the mineral industry, but also preserve the image of Malaysia.

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## **Petrography of coal from the Merit-Pila coalfield, Sarawak**

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The coal deposits of the Merit-Pila area are hosted by the Nyalau Formation of Miocene age which occurs as an outlier overlying the early Tertiary Belaga Formation; two coal bearing zones have been identified, namely, the Lower and Upper Coal Zones.

At least 35 coal seams have been identified in these two coal zones, their thickness ranging from a few centimetres to several metres. For the Lower Coal Zone in the Merit block, 5 seams in the area are considered as major seams with economic potentials including 4 seams in the Tebulan block. 4 major seams are found in the Upper Coal Zone, and these are located in the Merit-South block.

Macropetrographically, the seams are composed of clean coal, shaly coal, coaly shale and shale bands. There are no significant differences in the organic composition and the overall micropetrographic appearance is very uniform.

Vitrinite is the major constituent; liptinite does not exceed 14 vol. % and inertinite is not more than 4 vol. %. The random vitrinite reflectance ranges from 0.30 to 0.44%.

Based on petrographic analyses, the coal rank is sub-bituminous B. Laterally the seams are consistent in their petrographic properties. However, there is a slight difference in properties vertically between the seams at the lower part and the upper part of the Lower Coal Zone. A slight difference in properties is also observed between coals of the two zones.