

MONITOR BERITA

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KODE : LISTRIK MINERAL, BATU BARA GEOLOGI
 MIGAS DAN PANAS BUMI UMUM

JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MEI		JUN		JUL		AGST		SEPT		OKT		NOV		DES								
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HALAMAN : 8

TAHUN 2007

Three children die in landslide

Nana Rukmana
The Jakarta Post/Cirebon

Three children were killed and three others injured by a landslide at a former sand mine in Argasunya village, Harjamukti district in Cirebon, West Java on Monday.

The three dead children, identified as Janur, 12, his younger brother Mulyadi, 9, and Muhammad Akhsin, 9, were residents of the village.

The boys' bodies were buried under a large amount of earth, slowing recovery

efforts. "Extracting (the bodies) needed more than five hours... The extraction efforts were worsened by the fact that the incident site was located at a steep ravine prone to landslides," Ahmad Juwaeni, head of the evacuation team, said.

Ahmad said local residents were told of the disaster by the three children who managed to escape the landslide alive. "Their cries alerted the local people, who later invited others to help (dig out) the victims," he said.

Sabir, one of the three sur-

vivors, said the tragedy occurred while the children were collecting leftover wood at the sand mining site.

"All of a sudden three of our friends were buried, while the two others and I managed to run away," Sabir said.

Ahmad said the ex-sand mining site was prone to landslides, particularly during the rainy season. The site had been abandoned as of last year, but no reclamation work had yet been done.

Yoyon Suharyono, of the Cirebon-based Workers and

Environment Foundation, said that the ex-mining site was still being illegally exploited.

"(Even though) it had been closed down by the Cirebon mayor's administration, the sand mining activities still continued, albeit stealthily," Yoyon said.

He said sand mining had also contributed greatly to major flooding in the area. "The 600-hectare sand mining area used to be a water catchment area. It has been steadily destroyed due to the illegal mining," Yoyon added.