



Flooding in Wadas After Forest Was Cleared



Since morning a number of workers have been busy installing concrete water channels at the intersection of the road leading to the andesite mine in Wadas, Purworejo, Central Java. The scenery there has changed. In the past, there were still many trees growing on the cliffs not far from the workers' location. However, now the trees have been replaced by black tarpaulins covering the cliffs to reduce the risk of landslides. Landslide warning signs have become a new sight in several places.

Five days earlier, on Saturday afternoon, March 25 2023, the location became a flood point after it rained for a long time. That was the first time Wadas was flooded. The heavy rain that fell on the village caused flooding and the water entered several residents' houses and prayer rooms in Karang Hamlet.

The flooding occurred as a result of forest patches in the hills starting to be cleared to access the road connecting the andesite mining site in Wadas and the Bener Reservoir site in Bener Village, which is around 12 km away. As a result, rainwater is no longer blocked by plants and enters the ground but flows directly on the surface and glides without obstacles.

What residents who opposed andesite mining in Wadas feared has now happened: andesite mining has the potential to bring disaster to residents. This issue was raised at the Jakarta State Administrative Court (PTUN) some time ago but was ignored.

Fotograf: [\(https://projectmultatuli.org/author/dhoni-setiawan/\)](https://projectmultatuli.org/author/dhoni-setiawan/)

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Three school children walk near the edge of a cliff covered with plastic tarpaulin which functions to reduce the impact of landslides caused by the construction of an access road to the mining area in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java, (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)



A vegetable seller passes by on his motorbike near a sign warning of the danger of landslides. Similar warning boards are installed at a number of points along the road in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)





The edge of the cliff was covered with black plastic tarpaulin to reduce the impact of landslides caused by the construction of an access road to the mine in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)




A collapsed project board near the construction of an access road to the mine in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)





Heavy equipment is used to work on water channels as part of the construction of an access road to the mine in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)

"Today, Wadas Village is experiencing flooding," said Siswanto, a member of the Wadas Village Nature Care Community Movement (Gempadewa), Sunday (26/3). Siswanto urged the andesite mining plan to be stopped because it could endanger residents.

Siswanto once reminded officials from the Purworejo Regency Land Office as the Land Acquisition Committee (P2T) and the Serayu Opak Regional River Center (BBWSSO) as the government agency that was the initiator of the Bener Dam and andesite mining projects in Wadas. 

Topographically, Wadas is located in the Menoreh Hills which is an area prone to landslides. And historically, Wadas Village was hit by a landslide on June 24 1988 which claimed the lives of seven people and three houses.

So, based on Purworejo Regional Regulation Number 27 of 2011-2031 concerning Regional Spatial Planning, the Bener District area (including Wadas Village) is designated as a landslide disaster area, an area prone to drought disasters, and a plantation area in the form of coconut, cloves, robusta coffee, sugar palm. and cocoa.

The Wadas residents realized that it was the dense vegetation on the hills that would protect them from disaster, not the water channels or culverts created for andesite mining in the hills. There are around 124 hectares of land in the Wadas hills that will be mined. And the distance between the closest settlement and the mining area is only 300 meters.

"Why get IDR 10 billion in compensation (after handing over the land for mining) if you then die in a landslide," he said worriedly.





[anak-cucu/](#)) . However, the government continues to carry out plans to mine andesite stone in the village. This andesite stone will be used to build the Bener Reservoir which was designated as a National Strategic Project (PSN) by President Joko Widodo and implemented by [the Governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo](#) (<https://projectmultatuli.org/wadasmelawan-tanpa-kekerasan-membalas-pukulan-polisi-dengan-hasil-bumi-untuk-ndoro-ganjar/>) .

Dhanil Al Ghifary from the Yogyakarta Legal Aid Institute (LBH), who is the attorney for the Wadas residents who oppose the mine, believes that the Governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo and BBWSSO as government representatives should realize that opening a mine in Wadas will cause misery to the residents (<https://projectmultatuli.org/tanah-surga-wadas-dijadikan-tambang-mengapa-pemerintah-menindas-petani/>) .

"Land acquisition for mining in Wadas is only the beginning of the story of the destruction of nature in Wadas," he said.

Instead of canceling the mining plan, Dhanil actually saw the government using repressive methods (<https://projectmultatuli.org/cara-polisi-melakukan-kekerasan-ke-warga-wadas-penolak-tambang-andesit-saat-mengepung-desa-wadas-februari-2022/>) against residents who refused mining. Despite the repression, some residents to this day still firmly reject the existence of andesite mining in Wadas.



Mural banners rejecting andesite mining appear near the construction of an access road connecting the mining site in Wadas and the Bener Reservoir location in Bener Village, which is around 12 km away. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)





A man cleans dry mud left over from flooding caused by land clearing for the construction of an access road to a mining area in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)



Two children play at the Resistance Monument in Randu Parang, Wadas, Purworejo, Central Java. The construction of this monument through community self-help marks a year since the arrest of dozens of residents by the police for refusing plans to mine andesite in their area. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)





The names of residents who rejected the andesite mining plan are written on the Resistance Monument in Randu Parang, Wadas, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)



Banner of residents' resistance to andesite mining in Wadas Village, Purworejo, Central Java. (Project M/Dhoni Setiawan)

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