

Ministry to help state govt build disposal facility

PEKAN: The Housing and Local Government Ministry will work together with the Pahang government to help Lynas Malaysia Sdn Bhd build a permanent disposal facility for its Water Leach Purification (WLP) residue.

Its minister, Zuraida Kamaruddin, said the state government would help Lynas identify a suitable site for the facility.

When that was done, she said, the ministry, with help from the state government, would scrutinise all standard operating procedures (SOP) prior to construction.

"The state government will

identify and propose specific land for Lynas to construct the facility before the ministry takes over.

"The ministry will look into requirements, including whether the land earmarked is within suitable distance of housing settlements.

"Other SOP will be looked into before consent is given.

"The local government will cooperate and ensure that the construction of the facility adheres to SOP.

"Once land matters are resolved in the next six months, then the other processes can take place," she said in Pekan

here yesterday.

On whether she agreed that Lynas should not be closed, Zuraida said the matter was the cabinet's collective decision.

"As a cabinet member, I have to adhere to the decision.

"It is a cabinet decision which we have discussed and agreed upon, so we are moving forward."

On the possibility of residents opposing the proposal to build the facility near their area, Zuraida said it was the responsibility of the state government to handle such issues.

On the possibility that the facility would be built outside the state, she said, in jest: "When you are born in Pahang, then you (usually) live in Pahang."

She was referring to the Lynas plant in Gebeng near here.



Zuraida Kamaruddin