

Fine for illegal plastic waste factories may be raised to RM50,000

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Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

KUALA LUMPUR: The government intends to impose fines of at least RM50,000 on illegal plastic waste operations as the current RM300 is seen as being too low.

Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin says her ministry is putting up a paper on this proposal. The amendments will be submitted to the Cabinet and tabled in Parliament by 2020.

"When you import plastic waste, you are disgracing this country," she told reporters today after attending a forum on plastic waste in Malaysia.

Zuraida also said that "Waste-To-Energy" is definitely the future of Malaysia's waste management as it is the fastest way to clear rubbish.

Waste-To-Energy is a waste management technology to convert solid waste into energy in the form of electrical power.

She said the NGOs' recycling recommendation to curb plastic waste would take a very long time to see any impact.

"For the past 60 years we have not been able to change the mentality of Malaysians.

"If we follow the NGOs' recommendations, it's going to take another 60 years and by then, rubbish will be all over the place," she said.