

# Over 200 containers with illegal waste still stuck at M'sian ports

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KLANG: A huge number of containers with waste material is stuck in various ports in Malaysia as they have nowhere to go.

These containers are carrying waste material that Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin, in April, ordered to be sent back to the country of origin after they were found stashed in illegal recycling factories.

According to an industry source, the containers are stuck at the port because the senders from the country of origin cannot be traced.

“To make matters worse, the party that imported the material and received them in Malaysia also mostly cannot be found,” he said.

This has made it difficult to trace the overseas freight forwarder or recycler the party had obtained the waste material from.

“This is most probably because some of the illegal recycling factories in Malaysia were managed and run by foreigners who left the country after their premises were busted recently,” said the source.

Even when the parties from the country of origin have been located, most refuse to cooperate as they have no legal obligation to collaborate with Malaysia and receive the returned trash.

“Most of the material stuck in containers is recyclable.

“It would be cheaper to just recycle them instead of sending them back. If the Malaysian government commits to paying the freight forwarders, in the event owners of the waste material are located, the cost is going to be very high,” said the source.

Besides knowing where to send the waste to, freight forwarding companies tasked to return the material to the countries of origin must also know who is going to pay their bill.

“Has the Malaysian government allocated funds to send the containers back?” asked the source.