

89 CONTAINERS

3 COUNTRIES AGREE TO TAKE BACK PLASTIC WASTE

Documentation process expected to take up to 6 weeks, says Yeo

OOI TEÉ CHING
KUALA LUMPUR
bt@mediaprima.com.my

THREE countries have agreed to take back 89 containers of plastic waste at no expense to the government.

"We have contacted their ambassadors," said Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin after launching the rebrand-

ing of MCIS Insurance Bhd to MCIS Life, here, yesterday.

"We expect the documentation process to take up to six weeks. The procedure is complicated, in accordance with the Basel Convention."

Apart from Port Klang, Yeo said officials had also found containers of plastic waste at Penang Port and seaports in Sarawak.

Yeo said the ministry was determined to stop the illegal import of plastic waste because



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (third from left) launching the rebranding of MCIS Insurance Bhd to MCIS Life in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MUSTAFFA KAMAL

Malaysia was not a dumping ground for foreign trash.

China used to receive the bulk of scrap plastic from around the world but closed its doors to foreign refuse last year in an effort to clean up its environment.

Huge quantities of waste have since been redirected to Southeast Asia.

"Some quarters in the industry

are pressurising the government to auction the plastic waste cheaply or to give it to them.

"That is not going to happen. Malaysia will return the plastic waste."

"We are doing this because we want to stop the illegal import. If we succumb to pressure, plastic waste will continue to enter the country illegally."

Yeo said the authorities had been ordered to block the entry of illegal plastic waste at ports and those parties that brought the waste in must pay the repatriation costs.

She added that 21 containers in Port Klang and Penang Port had been shipped back to Spain, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh since June.