

# Malaysia seeks Netherlands' waste management expertise

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*We can learn from their trial and error, so that we can fast-track to reach the advanced level, says minister*

THE government is expected to seek expertise from the Netherlands as part of the efforts to improve and enhance Malaysia's waste management system.

Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin (*picture*) said the ministry will be meeting with the Netherlands' embassy to develop a relationship that would expedite the plan.

"Their ambassador is still new. I will have to engage with the embassy to find out how we can develop this working relationship with the Netherlands.

"What's interesting is that the Netherlands imports rubbish plastics and not clean plastics like (the ones) we import, and they manage to do it very well because of their procedures.

"They are very advanced, while we are still at the introductory stage. Therefore, we can learn from their trial and error, so that we can fast-track to reach that level," she told reporters after the Sustainable Waste Management Seminar that was held at the International Greentech and Eco Products Exhibition and Conference Malaysia 2019 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Zuraida said Malaysia still has to tackle the basic challenge of instilling good practices among the communities such as throwing their trash into the right can, as well as separating them at source.

She said such habits have been introduced, but the initiatives have not been taken seriously by Malaysians, which have also hampered the country's advancement in waste management.

"We are going to have engagement programmes with the community. We have policies and action plans, but they are not moving because the people are not supporting them.

"So now, we have to go down to the grassroot to ensure that they are involved and they will make it as part of their culture, make it in their blood, to throw rubbish in the rubbish can," Zuraida said.

She added that she was impressed by various countries that she visited in regard to waste management as they have been incorporating waste management into their lives for many years.