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Illegal plastic waste factory found near hills in Penang

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GEORGE TOWN: A company believed to be running an illegal plastic waste disposal facility was found near some hills in Relau here.

In a report given by Penang Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh, investigation by the Department of Environment (DOE) showed that the owner of the premises had failed to provide any permit by the local authority to operate there.

"The company collects used plastic parts and breaks them down with a shredder.

"The shredded bits will then be sent to a plastic product manufacturing company in Jawi," said the report.

The department found no bleach-

ing or open burning at the site and all the plastic waste was sourced locally. Hence, it did not violate the Environment Act.

The discovery came after DOE launched an investigation on Monday following reports of alleged plastic burning nearby.

"DOE officers found no burning but there was illegal bulk domestic waste disposal," said the report.

The hill lies adjacent to the township of Relau, whose residents had been complaining of the smell of burning plastic a few days before Chinese New Year.