

LARGE SCALE

YEO: MALAYSIA NOT WORLD'S DUMPSTER



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (holding paper) supervising the repatriation of plastic waste containers at the North Butterworth Container Terminal in Butterworth yesterday. PIC BY MIKAIL ONG

Minister says 150 containers of plastic waste repatriated to countries of origin

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MALAYSIA has returned 150 containers of plastic waste, weighing 3,737 metric tonnes, to their countries of

origin since the third quarter of last year.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin said the containers, mainly from developed countries, were sent back at no financial cost to the government.

She said the containers were shipped via ports in Klang, Penang and Sarawak.

"The cost of returning the containers was borne by the importers or shipping companies.

"This is the first time in the

country's history the containers were sent back on a large scale.

"The government views the issue seriously. We will take stern action to ensure Malaysia is not turned into the world's dumpster," she said at the North Butterworth Container Terminal (NBCT) here yesterday.

Earlier, Yeo supervised the repatriation of the containers at NBCT.

Present were the Department of Environment director-general, Norlin Jaafar, and state Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh.

Of the 150 containers of plastic waste, 40 involved exporters from France, the United Kingdom (42), the United States (17), Canada (11), Spain (10) and Hong Kong (nine).

Others included five containers from Japan, Singapore (four), Portugal (three), China (three) and one each from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania.

Yeo said it was estimated that about 110 containers of plastic waste would be shipped back to their countries of origin before year end.

She said of the total, 60 containers were from the US, Canada

(15), Japan (14), the UK (nine), Belgium (eight) and other countries.

"None of the countries of origin has refused to accept the containers. All gave their cooperation, some slow and some faster than expected."

She said the government would launch the HS Code 3915 next month to standardise enforcement in the field by agencies.

She said the procedure would involve the DoE, Customs Department, National Solid Waste Management Department, Solid Waste And Public Cleansing Management Corporation and port authorities.



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