

PAS: Najib admits Lynas waste is dangerous
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Aidila Razak

The government's announcement that wastes from the Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (Lamp) will be moved to a less populated area shows that the government knows the wastes are dangerous, says PAS.

PAS environmental bureau chief Zulkefly Mohamad Omar said this came despite the PM's claim that the decision to move the wastes has nothing to do with danger levels.

"If the wastes are not dangerous, then there should not have been a need to shift the dump site. His statement shows that the government actually knows the toxicity of the Lamp wastes.

"PAS believes the PM's statement is only political rhetoric to hide abuse of power in making rash decisions which endanger the rakyat's safety," Zulkefly told a press conference at the PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

If anything, he said, the best location for dumping such material would be the Australian desert, which is vast and inhabitable.

"The fact that the Australian authorities have said they don't want to accept the toxic wastes... affirms that they are very dangerous," Zulkefly said.

Awaiting government's feedback

He added that Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai's proposal that the wastes be sent back to Australia also raises several questions.

"Why didn't he question the waste management and toxin disposal earlier? Why raise this after the temporary operating licence has been given?" he asked.

According to Zulkefly, PAS and environmental NGOs will await the government's feedback on the matter, "or else we will organise Himpunan Hijau 3.0".

"We will also reveal who is behind (the decision to allow Lynas to operate in Malaysia)," he said.

The PM's announcement that the wastes would be shifted away from Gebeng, where Lamp is located, comes after the recent anti-Lynas rally of about 15,000 people in Kuantan, dubbed Himpunan Hijau 2.0.

On a related matter, the PAS leader said that the group of residents' application for a judicial review to challenge the Atomic Energy Licensing Board's award of a temporary operating licence has been resubmitted today.

This follows an objection by the government against the leave application. The case will be mentioned on Mar 20.

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