

**DAP: Radioactive waste can't be exported**  
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The MCA's position that waste from the Lynas rare earths refinery in Kuantan should be shipped abroad goes against the Basel Convention on transboundary movement of hazardous materials, the DAP warns.

DAP secretary Teresa Kok likened the MCA suggestion to the plot of a "third grade horror movie" and wondered aloud if the cabinet was aware of the restrictions in the Basel Convention that Malaysia signed in 1993.

Kok was replying to a statement by MCA deputy president Liow Tiong Lai, who is also health minister, who reiterated the party's stand in Kuantan last Sunday.

Liow had also sought an explanation from Lynas as to why Australia - which will supply the rare earths ore - will not accept the waste materials from the plant in Gebeng.

"(He) has a domestic and international obligation to state which country will allow (the import of) this radioactive waste, as Malaysia would then be implicated as a hazardous waste exporter," Kok said in a statement.

Kok, the Selangor exco in charge of industry, said the Basel Convention discourages or prohibits one nation from exporting any hazardous waste to another.

"I am wondering whether the cabinet has overlooked the Basel Convention or whether the government has no idea what the Basel Convention is," she said.

She also called on the government to seriously consider public grievances, lamenting how the people of Gebeng have been turned into "guinea pigs" in order to 'prove' that the refinery operations are 'safe'.

"They have (said) loud and clear that they do not want to be used, not even for a minute, in experiments to prove the Lynas plant does no harm to them," she said.

'MCA out of ideas'

In a related matter, PKR's Kuantan MP Fuziah Salleh criticised MCA for making an issue of her absence from the Dewan Rakyat last week, when the parliamentary select committee report on the Lynas plant was tabled.

"It seems that MCA is very (afraid) of me (since) my absence from Parliament last week (became) a main talking point at its annual general meetings in Indera Mahkota, Paya Besar and Kuantan," Fuziah said in a statement.

“I’ve also observed that MCA leaders are willing to spread lies about me for the sake of clawing back votes that are most definitely lost to them.”

She clarified that she was overseas at the time to study election strategies, and was not on holiday.

Her absence during the debate on the report does not invalidate three-and-a-half years of work she has put into opposing the project, she said, countering that the MCA had remained silent on the issue until last year.

“The people understand that my heart is on their side whenever the Lynas issue is brought up, whether in Parliament or out.

“They (MCA) only spoke out after seeing the people oppose Lynas. They spoke out because they were afraid of losing the people’s support.”

Fuziah also warned MCA against trying to play the “champion” on the issue.

“MCA leaders should sincerely fight for the benefit and health of the rakyat, and not merely for support.”

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