

**Lynas Agrees To Send Rare Earth Residue Abroad, Says Mustapa
Programmes
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KUANTAN, March 6 (Bernama) -- Lynas (M) Sdn Bhd has agreed to send abroad the residue from its rare earth processing plant in Gebeng near here, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Tuesday.

Lynas has given a written assurance to the government on the matter which is in compliance with the condition imposed on the company when it was issued a temporary operating licence by the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) recently, he said.

"Although the government is satisfied that the Lynas operation will not generate residue which is radioactive, as an added precaution and in keeping with a recommendation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the government has asked Lynas for an assurance and to provide for a permanent disposal facility far away from human settlement.

"Should the company fail to find a permanent disposal facility, the residue generated will be taken out of Malaysia," he told reporters after reading out a joint statement with Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob. He had earlier chaired a meeting of the Joint Industrial Coordination Committee.

Mustapa also said that Lynas has not started its operations and the government has yet to appoint an independent expert to analyse the radioactive radiation readings at the plant site.

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