

16/09/1997

Cloud seeding activities to be extended

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the haze situation in Malaysia has yet to reach a level for the Government to declare an emergency.

Asked by reporters when the Government would make such a declaration, he replied: "When there is too much haze, we will declare (a state of emergency)."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters in Sepang, Selangor, after witnessing the first commercial aircraft landing at the KL International Airport.

He said stern measures had been taken, but the haze problem still persisted.

"We have called for cloud seeding operations. The haze has reached over 9,000ft. The clouds are submerged by it. We searched for clouds but could not find them," he added.

Dr Mahathir said as such, the Government has asked for the cloud seeding activities to be spread nationwide rather than focusing on the Klang Valley alone.

"We asked them to search for clouds, not necessarily those around Kuala Lumpur," he added.

Bernama reports: The air quality in several areas of the Klang Valley was still at the very unhealthy level at 7pm, the Department of Environment (DOE) said last night.

The API for Kuala Lumpur was 284, Gombak 291, Kajang 216, Petaling Jaya 198, Klang 194, Nilai, Negri Sembilan 260 and Malacca 205.

The API was at unhealthy levels over Shah Alam (167) and Ipoh (179).

Meanwhile, Bukit Aman Traffic Police have advised all motorists to switch on their lights during the day in view of the haze.

"Motorcyclists and pillion riders should wear clothing which can easily be seen by other motorists," the police said in a statement adding that they should also reduce their normal speed.

Meanwhile, director of the Weather Changes Division in the Meteorological Department, Mr Tung Nam Ping, said the department had been directed by the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry to continue with the cloud seeding operation which started in the Klang Valley on Monday.

In yesterday's exercise, cloud seeding could only be conducted in the Ulu Langat area as there were no suitable clouds in other areas in the Klang Valley.

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