

19 SEP 1997

DECLARATION OF HAZE EMERGENCY

Following is a translation of the full text of the Declaration of Haze Emergency by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also the Director of National Operations.

1. In view of the fact that the haze in the state of Sarawak has reached the 500 and above level on the Air Pollutant Index (API) and the expectation that this level will continue for some time, I hereby declare a state of Haze Emergency for the whole of Sarawak from now until a time when this declaration is withdrawn, in line with with the decision of the Cabinet on September 18, 1997.

2. It is stressed that this declaration of the Haze Emergency does not involve the enforcement of a curfew and there is also no change in the administration style and system of the Sarawak state government at present. However, the Royal Malaysian Police and the Malaysian Armed Forces should take necessary steps to guarantee the continued peace and security of Sarawak.

3. A set of Guidelines on the actions to be taken in facing the Haze Emergency is provided in Apendix A. All parties must carry out their respective duties and responsibilities based on the Guidelines.

(signed)
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad,
Prime Minister
and Director of National Operations

Dated : 19 September 1997

APENDIX A

GUIDELINES ON ACTIONS IN FACING HAZE EMERGENCY

When a state of emergency is declared, State Disaster Relief Management Committees should take the following actions:

(a) issue order for the closure of all offices, both government and private, and other places of work including factories, plantations, construction sites and quarries.

The closure order is enforced except for

- (i) food outlets, markets and supermarkets,
- (ii) clinics, pharmacies and medicine shops, and
- (iii) essential services;

(b) mobilise the Royal Malaysian Police and the Malaysian Armed Forces to take steps to safeguard peace and security in Sarawak;

(c) ensure that earth works are stopped;

(d) ensure that artificial rain programme is carried out as much as possible with the help of Royal Malaysian Air Force aircraft;

(e) advise to reduce the use of private vehicles;

(f) ensure that all schools are closed;

(g) ensure the dissemination of Air Pollutant Index to the print and electronic media as frequently as possible;

(h) call on the media to advise the public to remain indoors and on the actions to be taken by them;

(i) The Information Ministry should ensure that the above information is disseminated continuously;

(j) ensure the continued enforcement of the ban on open burning; and

(k) ensure that this haze emergency directive does not involve the declaration of a curfew (except in certain situations where the law provides for it).

National Security Division,
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Kuala Lumpur.

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