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Home Ministry agencies on 24-hour standby

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sat. - The Home Ministry has directed all its departments to be on 24-hour stand-by to answer haze-related emergency calls.

Deputy Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting said the directive also covered voluntary bodies like Rela, police volunteer reserves and civil defence forces.

"Personnel from these departments, agencies and voluntary bodies are discouraged from taking leave and must be prepared for emergency duties," he said.

He was speaking at the Sultan Mahmud Airport before leaving for Tasik Kenyir for a closed-door brainstorming session for heads of departments in his Ministry.

Ong also said personnel would be mobilised to emergency-declared areas once instructions were received from the National Security Council.

"In Sarawak, we have mobilised all police personnel to assist the public in emergency situations as well as to maintain order. We will send more personnel if required," he added.

He said that for now, the police had enough manpower to maintain public order and attend to haze-related problems in Sarawak.

"Besides, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed the armed forces to ensure peace and order is maintained in Sarawak."

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