

19 SEP 1997

HOURLY AIR QUALITY INDEX AND VISIBILITY IN SARAWAK

KUCHING, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- The Air Pollutant Index (API) in Sarawak since yesterday has been deteriorating by the hour and has reduced visibility to just a few hundred metres.

The situation has forced the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to declare a state of emergency in Sarawak.

Following are the readings recorded here from 8 am to 4 pm today:

Air Pollutant Index

Time/readings (obtained from the Department of Environment, Sarawak)

8am - 612  
9am - 625  
10am- 635  
11am- 641  
12 noon - 646  
1pm - 650  
2pm - 654  
3pm - 657  
4pm - 658  
5pm - 655

(0-50 = good, 51-100 moderate, 101-200 unhealthy,  
201-300 very unhealthy, 301-500 hazardous)

Visibility (obtained from Meteorological Department, Sarawak)

Kuching 200 metres  
Sri Aman 300 metres  
Sibu 200 metres  
Bintulu 400 metres  
Miri 300 metres -- BERNAMA