

20 SEP 1997

Haze-Sarawak

MONDAY REVIEW ON SARAWAK'S HAZE EMERGENCY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the National Operations Director, will review Monday whether to continue the state of a haze emergency in Sarawak which entered its second day today.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today Dr Mahathir would hold a meeting with relevant ministers to discuss the issue.

"It's up to the National Operations Director whether to revoke the declaration," Mohamed who is the National Disaster Relief Management Committee chairman told reporters here.

He was asked to comment on the Air Pollutant Index (API) readings in Kuching which have declined to 491 levels at 1pm today from 503 at noon.

Mohamed said the haze emergency declared yesterday was still in force.

He said that even though the API readings in Kuching had gone down, further monitoring was still required.

"We need to monitor the situation at least for the next 72 hours," he said.

On deteriorating air quality in Gombak, which hit the API level of 324 at noon, he said that if it hit the 400 mark, all schools in Gombak would be closed. -- BERNAMA

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