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10 incoming flights delayed

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FOUR domestic and six international incoming flights to the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport were delayed due to the haze yesterday, an official from Malaysia Airports Bhd said.

The official told Business Times yesterday that the international flights included a Royal Brunei Airlines from Bandar Seri Begawan, Malaysia Airlines flight MH751 from Ho Chih Minh City, three Singapore Airlines shuttle flights and one from Pekan Baru.

Among the affected domestic flights, two were from Kuching. There were also four delayed departures due to the bad weather at the destination airports, said the official.

The official added that one domestic flight from Kota Kinabalu bound for Subang had to be diverted to Bayan Lepas International airport due to the bad weather.

The worsening haze also raises a question to the possibility of delay to the first test landing at the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang if visibility falls.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Cabinet members are scheduled to witness the first landing of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 747 at KLIA today.

The haze situation in the country has deteriorated through the weekend as unhealthy air quality levels were recorded in the Klang Valley.

Gombak was the worst affected, experiencing very unhealthy air quality with an Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of 204 yesterday compared with 182 registered on Saturday.

Kuala Lumpur fared no better with an API reading of 197 compared with 182 the day before, though this was classified as unhealthy.

Elsewhere in the Klang Valley, Klang recorded an API reading of 188, Petaling Jaya registered an API reading of 168 while Shah Alam registered an API reading of 160.

Nilai and Malacca experienced deteriorating air quality levels, registering API levels of 188 and 184 respectively, compared with 162 and 129 on Saturday.

Seberang Perai and Ipoh recorded unhealthy air quality with API readings of 126 and 142 respectively.

Only two stations recorded moderate air quality, Kota Bharu and Kuching which registered API readings of 63 and 88.

The Department of Environment had on Saturday said that hourly reports of the API readings will be issued to the public via radio and TV stations.

Motorists travelling on the Shah Alam expressway reported that the expressway authorities have issued electronic messages along the highway advising motorists to switch their car lights on.

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