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Public apathy towards air quality deplorable

LACK OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS ... As the country struggles to get the haze problem under control with 1,018-strong Malaysian firefighting team deployed to Sumatra to battle the forest and peat fires there, on the home ground the apathy is appalling.

In Terengganu, New Straits Times photographer Shahrizal Md Noor captured the picture of thick, yellowish smoke emitting from a brick-making factory at Lingai, located along Jalan Kuala Terengganu-Kota Baru.

A passer-by who declined to be identified said despite the plea from the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for factories emitting thick smoke to co-operate, the Lingai Bata factory appeared to be adopting a tidak apa attitude.

"Not only are some factories still stubborn, some individuals are seen burning dried leaves and rubbish in the open," she said.

Lingai Bata factory management could not be reached.

Yesterday, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad when asked whether any action would be taken by the local authorities against irresponsible individuals, said they were monitoring the situation closely and warnings would be issued first.

Some members of the public have complained about the lack of informaton regarding the haze situation.

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