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Haze-Monitor

PULAU PINANG DOE WILL OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO MONITOR HAZE

PULAU PINANG, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- With the haze back over Pulau Pinang after a few days' respite, the Department of Environment (DOE) office here has been directed to remain open until midnight, from today, to monitor the situation.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the state operations room, closed a few days back, would also reopen if the situation worsened.

Although the Air Pollutant Index (API) reading was within the tolerable level, the state government would continue to monitor the development, he told a news conference, here.

He said that with the API rising in the southern part of the peninsula and the state government was making arrangements for action should the situation warrant it.

However, Dr Koh hoped that the situation would not deteriorate to the alert stage, as had occurred on Sept 27 when the API reading rose to 363.

Dr Koh lift the alert order two days ago when the haze cleared as the wind changed direction.

However, according to reports from the Meteorological Services Department, the southeasterly winds which had brought the haze from Sumatra and Kalimantan would again blow towards Malaysia.

As at 3pm today, the API reading for Seberang Perai was 37 which is rated good.

Earlier, Dr Koh, also the state Brisan Nasional leader and Gerakan vice-president, expressed full support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his efforts in national development, particularly in the economic sector.

He said the state government fully supported the prime minister and was behind the federal government in its efforts to stabilise the economy.

The foreign media attack on Dr Mahathir was without basis, he added. --

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