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RMAF PLANES IN CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS OVER SARAWAK

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Charlie and Caribou planes have joined cloud seeding operations in Sarawak where a haze emergency has been declared by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Syed Hamid Albar said the planes would be engaged in such operations at appropriate locations.

The C130 planes based at Labuan were taking part in the operation as the planes were capable of flying at high altitude.

Syed Hamid, speaking to reporters here, said the armed forces was now giving priority to cloud seeding operations in Sarawak after which it would move to Peninsular Malaysia.

"We are following directives from the National Disaster Relief Management Committee," he said.

On the RMAF's routine operations, the Defence Minister said the haze situation was being taken into account particularly where the air force's helicopters are concerned.

"In the present haze situation, helicopters will have problems," he said. -- BERNAMA

MKO AAM