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Haze-Mobilise

SARAWAK AWAITS NOD TO MOBILISE FIRE-FIGHTING SQUAD

KUCHING, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Sarawak is still waiting for instruction to mobilise its fire-fighting squad of 110 personnel to neighbouring West Kalimantan where raging forest fires have contributed to the current critical haze situation.

Mejar Kamaruddin Ahmad of the Sarawak National Security Division operations room, here, said today the deployment of personnel from the state Fire and Rescue Services Department would be mobilised within the next day through the Tebedu entry point about 90km from here.

He said a security division meeting chaired by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr George Chan this morning discussed details of the fire-fighting operation which involved identifying the affected areas.

Other communication and supporting services such as the Medical Department as well as the Signals Squadron of the Third Malaysian Infantry Brigade were now on stand-by, he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is director of the National Operation Council had said that Malaysia would send a fire-fighting team to help Indonesia tackle the haze problem.

Besides the fire-fighters, the team comprising members of the Special Malaysian Assistance and Rescue Team (Smart) would also bring equipment to draw water from underground wells to some parts of drought-stricken Kalimantan.

Meanwhile, Sarawak is expected to experience further critical situation with more haze coming from Kalimantan which in the southern part of Borneo Island.

A spokesman of the Meteorological Services Department said winds were blowing from Kalimantan in a south-westerly direction at between 15km and 25km per hour. -- BERNAMA

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