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M'SIA-INDON JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING TO DEAL WITH FOREST FIRES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- The first meeting of the Malaysia-Indonesia joint committee on forest fires end of this month will decide on cross-border operation procedures between the two countries, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said the Jakarta meeting would come up with the cross-border framework to be used as standard procedures in combating forest fires and the resulting haze in both nations.

"My Indonesian counterpart has contacted me for the first meeting end of this month to come up with a cross-border framework," Mohamed, who is the National Disaster Relief and Management Committee chairman, told reporters, here.

Mohamed, who is also the Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general, earlier attended the BN Supreme Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Mohamed said the cooperation was based on the memorandum of understanding on efforts to combat forest fires and haze signed by the two countries recently.

He said this enabled any measures taken by both countries to deal with the two problems to be implemented smoothly.

Mohamed said Malaysia, hosting the 16th Commonwealth Games in September, wanted any forest fires to be promptly put out to prevent the recurrence of the haze.

-- BERNAMA

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