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High-rise building owners told to install sprinklers

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Owners of high-rise buildings in the Federal capital have been told that they must install water sprinklers on top of their premises before the Commonwealth Games in September.

The sprinklers would be used to clear the air if haze recurs during the Games, said Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding today.

He said the Cabinet had at its meeting last week directed Kuala Lumpur City Hall to amend existing legislation to make it compulsory for all tall buildings to have outdoor water sprinklers.

This followed poor response from building owners to voluntarily install such sprinklers.

City Hall has to decide what constitutes high-rise.

It will most probably amend the Uniform Building By-Laws 1984 which comes under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974.

Law was speaking to reporters after presenting cheques to two local researchers, Dr Hoh Hon Bing and Lian Lay Hoong of Universiti Malaya, who became the third and fourth recipients of the Dr Ranjeet Bhagwan Singh Medical Research Grant.

The idea of installing water sprinklers on high-rise buildings was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during last year's haze.

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