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High-rise owners directed to install water sprinklers

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said the Cabinet today directed all owners of high-rise buildings to install water sprinklers on their premises which could be used to reduce temperature and clear dust in the atmosphere.

This followed a successful test on the use of sprinklers carried out by the Fire and Rescue, Meteorological Services, Chemistry and Environment departments as well as Universiti Putra Malaysia at the Petronas Twin Towers yesterday.

Law said the test reduced the temperature by five degrees Celsius. It also reduced suspended particulate matters of less than 0.3 micron in size by 10 per cent, 0.5 micron by seven per cent, one and three micron by 90 per cent and 10 micron by 50 per cent.

When pointed out that the country was facing water shortage, Law said: "We hope the situation would be back to normal by the time we have to use the sprinklers."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also suggested that local authorities create water fountains from disused mining pools to reduce dust and temperature.

Law said he had sent letters to some 40 non-governmental organisations, individuals and corporations, inviting them for a meeting on tackling fires and haze.

The meeting is scheduled for May 12.

Law will also write to businessmen seeking contributions for the cause.

On the water problem, Law said he had handed satellite pictures of the six catchment areas in Selangor to Dr Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

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