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Sprinklers in KL's high-rise buildings a must soon

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THE Cabinet has directed City Hall to amend the legislation to make it compulsory for water sprinklers to be installed in high-rise buildings, Science, Technology and the Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after launching the Dr Ranjeet Bhagwan Singh medical research fund in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said the height of the buildings which will fall under the jurisdiction of the amended laws will be determined by City Hall.

"The amendment should be made as soon as possible, hopefully before the Commonwealth Games," he said, adding that the directive was issued at last week's Cabinet meeting.

As a result of tests conducted at Kuala Lumpur Tower and the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, high-rise building owners have been earlier urged to install sprinkler systems.

The tests were conducted to determine the effectiveness of sprinklers in reducing smoke particles and temperature during hazy days.

On the outdoor air purifier that has been installed at the Puduraya bus station in Kuala Lumpur and another location in Petaling Jaya, he said, tests are still being carried out on its effectiveness.

He could not indicate how long the tests will be conducted as "there has been no final decision."

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also informed him of the mobile air purifier from Germany. The committee involved in the outdoor air purifier has been asked to look into and come up with a similar model, said Law.

The outdoor air purifier is a result of the work by a committee comprising Malaysia Electric Corp, the Chemistry Department, Sirim Bhd and Sunway Group.

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