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ZAP way to cleaner, pollution-free air

COMMUTERS at Kuala Lumpur's Pudu bus station no longer have to inhale hazardous polluted air, thanks to the installation of a prototype outdoor Zone Air Purifier (ZAP) in the platform area.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment has identified Section 14 in Petaling Jaya as one of the many places to be installed with this device.

ZAP is a Malaysian-designed product that can purify an area of up to 150 sq ft, providing clean air that is free of dust and smoke.

The device consist of a main body housing all the switches, sensors, axial fans, silencer and filters and an umbrella roof.

It functions when air from the bottom part of the body is drawn through the filters and directed to the edge of the roof where the air flows out to form an air curtain.

This air curtain contains the clean filtered air within the curtain and at the same time prevent the dirty air outside from intruding into the clean air zone.

The next phase of these air purifiers will be improved on later by adding two low-powered fans, and will be sophisticated enough to be placed in shopping malls.

ZAP is a collaborative study by Malaysia Electric Corp Research and Development (MEC R and D) and Department of Chemistry (DOC) with contributions from Sirim Bhd, Quest Technology Bhd and Sungei Way Group Bhd.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister, Datuk Law Hieng Ding, who made a visit to the Pudu bus station yesterday said the air filter can remove up to 60 per cent of impurities.

He said it is not possible for ZAP to obtain a 100 per cent efficiency rate as it is placed in an open area.

A brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, ZAP could be a landmark of Malaysian cities in the future.

Costing approximately RM45,000 each, the ZAP is a project funded by the Industrial R & D Grant Scheme.

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