

16 JUL 2000

HAZE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, SAYS LAW

KUCHING, July 16 (Bernama) -- The haze over the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia is only temporary and is no cause for alarm, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding.

He said the haze was caused by fires in Sumatra, Indonesia, and low-level winds blowing the smoke towards the west coast of the peninsula.

"As of yesterday afternoon, satellite pictures showed 95 hot spots, 92 in Sumatra and three in the peninsula," he said when asked about the haze.

Law is in Kuching to attend the all community luncheon at the State Assembly building here held in conjunction with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's three-day visit to Sarawak.

Law said as of yesterday, only three stations -- Taiping, Sri Manjong and Port Klang -- reported Air Pollution Index (API) readings slightly above 100 while the rest reported either good or moderate readings.

He said the ministry is closely monitoring the situation.

-- BERNAMA

MT THG