

Haze: MCA chief says to look into compensation from Indonesia
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MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek has urged the Natural Resources and Environment Minister to look into a mechanism to demand compensation from Indonesia for the damage caused by the haze.

Chua criticised Indonesia for its lack of political will and enforcement efforts in addressing the haze problem.

"The socio-economic impact of the haze is great - tourist arrivals went down, more people fell sick and took sick leave and medical expenditure went up.

"Hawkers and retailers' businesses are also affected," he said in a press conference during the KSM annual general meeting yesterday, reported The Star.

He added that Indonesia should show more political will and put more resources and expertise into solving the problem.

He said the haze had been a yearly problem for Singapore and Malaysia for more than 20 years.

"They cannot just blame Malaysian and Singaporean companies involved in the plantation sector and for open burning," he said, adding that their own enforcement agency should enforce their laws and not push the responsibility to Malaysia and Singapore. - June 24, 2013.

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