

Indonesians here say Malaysians at fault for bad haze back home
The Rakyat Post
October 7, 2015
By Azizi Sunip

Adi Putra Hoerty, 27, an Indonesian worker here says the situation in Malaysia is still moderate even though the air quality is at an unhealthy level. — TRP pic by Azizi Sunip

KUALA LUMPUR, Indonesian foreign workers in Malaysia are thankful that the haze situation here is not as bad as in Indonesia.

According to Adi Putra Hoerty, 27, a worker, the situation in Malaysia was still moderate even though the air was at unhealthy levels.

“In Indonesia there are many oil palm plantations owned by Malaysian companies and they do not want to fork out the money to clear the waste so they just burn them,” he said when met by *The Rakyat Post*.

He said the reason for the burning was to reduce cost.

“They pick the easy way to open up new land by burning waste or forests.”

Echoing Adi, a domestic helper, Wiwit Muji Lestari Ningsih, 31, expressed sadness that her family was suffering from the haze back home.

“They have no access to fresh air any more. Schools here have closed for two days while in Palembang its been closed for two months,” she said.

Kunarsih Hadisudarmo, 41, from Lampong, south Sumatra has a different view.

“The cause of the yearly haze is because of both countries’ irresponsibility. Those clearing land by burning are Malaysians who have farms in Indonesia.

“Now those who burn forests to open up farms in Indonesia will be fined,” he said.

He said he had worked in a farm near his village before this and had instructions at that time from the manager to burn forests.

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Source: <http://www.therakyatpost.com/news/2015/10/07/indonesians-here-say-malaysians-at-fault-for-bad-haze-back-home/>