

Schools in 3 states, FT, Putrajaya ordered to close today after API hits 180
The Malaysian Insider
Sept 15, 2015

Schools in Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Federal Territories and Putrajaya have been ordered to close following the worsening smoke situation. (see graphic below, updated as at 6am, September 15)

Deputy Education Minister P. Kamalanathan said through his Twitter handle that the order had come from minister Datuk Mahadzir Khalid.

"MAKLUMAT TERKINI; YBDS @MahdzirKhalid sebentar tadi telah mengarahkan semua sekolah2 d NegeriSelangor, WP & Putrajaya, NS & Melaka d tutup," Kamalanathan said in the tweet.

"We will update when schools need to reopen first thing in the morning," he was quoted as saying by The Star Online, when asked if schools would reopen on Thursday.

Wednesday is a public holiday while the school holidays begin on Saturday.

The ministry had earlier instructed schools to close if the API reading touches 200 and to cease all activities outside the classroom when the reading hits 150.

This comes as 33 out of 52 monitoring stations in the country recorded unhealthy air pollutant index (API) readings, with the highest API in Banting (188) and Nilai (187) at 7pm today.

The Penang state government had said that that it would collaborate with the Education Ministry and order schools to close if the API reaches 140. – September 15, 2015.

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