

Schools Closed Due To Haze Need Not Replace Classes - Mahdzir Khalid
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Schools closed due to the haze need not have their classes replaced, said Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

He said the measure was being taken so as not to burden the school management.

"Nevertheless, I request all teachers involved to expedite and use the school's discretion to ensure the teaching and learning at school can be solved within the existing schooling period for 2015," he said in a statement here Sunday.

He also said if the haze persisted until the public examination, namely Ujian Pentaksiran Tingkatan Tiga (PT3) (Oct 12-15), Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (Nov 2 until Dec 8), Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia (Oct 19-27) and Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia, these examination would still be held as scheduled.

"Examinations is an indoor activity and not outdoors. Hence it will proceed even if the schools are closed due to the air pollutant index (API) exceeding 200," he said.

Mahdzir said postponement of the public examination would be the last option if the API breached 500 at the dangerous level to health and an emergency is declared by the government.

He said the Education Ministry had closed 4,561 schools from nine states, involving 2,617,432 students as the API reading breached the unhealthy and very unhealthy levels since Sept 15 until 30.

According to him, the nine states involved were Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory, Putrajaya Federal Territory, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Pahang, Johor, Sarawak and Perak.

"Based on the ministry's ongoing monitoring on the haze that is currently affecting the country, I would like to say this issue must to be addressed tactfully and quickly as it can bring harm to our children who are still schooling," he said.

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