

**Extreme Heat: Education Ministry Will Decide On Need to Close Schools – PM
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Education Ministry will decide on the need to close schools if the extreme heat now continues after the end of the first term holidays this week.

He said for now, the existing procedures gave school heads the authority to cancel outdoor activities if the conditions warrant it.

"The government will take all necessary precautionary measures on the extreme heat," he said in his latest posting on his blog www.najibrazak.com today.

The prime minister said he was very concerned about the effects from the extreme heat which has hit the country.

"The heatwave can be dangerous, especially to children and the aged," Najib said.

The school session in Kedah, Johor, Kelantan and Terengganu is scheduled to resume on March 20, while in the other states, on March 21, after the first-term holidays end.

Najib also urged the public to seek immediate medical treatment in government clinics or hospitals if they experienced symptoms related to the hot weather or heatwave such as headaches, foot exczema, rapid heartbeats, rashes, cramps or body pains.

He also urged the public to take precautions against fires especially in dry areas such as playgrounds near housing estates, farms, bushes and forests.

Malaysia is currently experiencing extraordinary hot weather and reduced rainfall due to the El Nino phenomenon.

Yesterday, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said a special meeting will be held soon to discuss the necessary steps to be taken during the current hot and dry weather.

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