



## PRESS STATEMENT

### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

#### RESPONSE TO THE NEW STRAITS TIMES ARTICLE ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 'ACT FAST TO ADDRESS AIR QUALITY DECLINE'

18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) has taken note of the article published in the New Straits Times on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017, titled "**Act fast to address air quality decline**". NRE would like to reassure Malaysians that the Ministry is extremely sensitive to and concerned about the quality of air that we Malaysians breathe. NRE through the Department of Environment (DOE) has and is continually monitoring very carefully the pollution indices 24/7. The Ministry will continue to educate and increase environmental awareness amongst the general public to reduce the air pollution in this country and is working together with the relevant stakeholders and regulated communities to ensure better air quality is achieved to maintain the wellbeing of our people.

The Ministry would like to thank the columnist Dr. Nor Eliani Ezani for highlighting the issue on air pollution and its associated risks to human health. The writer has touched on the issue of outdoor and indoor air quality since both are the themes of this year's World Environment Day. NRE through DOE has been focusing on outdoor air quality. Air pollution results from industrialisation, traffic emissions, burning of biomass from agricultural activities or open burning.

The DOE has laid down strategies and action lines to further improve the air quality in the country for a better quality of life for the people. The Clean Air Action Plan was formulated in 2010. Amongst the strategies is the new regulation on Clean Air that stipulates more stringent emission standards and includes the element of self-regulation to be implemented by industrial players; introduction of better fuel quality and emission standards for vehicles; enhancement of air quality network nationwide; more effective mechanisms and concrete regional solutions and collaboration in order to address the haze issue.

In order to respond as quickly as possible to decreasing air quality, the Ministry has developed and implemented the new Environmental Quality Monitoring Programme (EQMP) which is a great improvement over the existing programme. EQMP

encompasses an automatic, online and real time monitoring system which delivers the air quality data in a shorter period of time compared to the previous system and with additional numbers of more accurate measurements of pollutant parameters and stations.

The EQMP analyses data collected in real time from air, river and marine monitoring centres all across the country. Through the EQMP system, DOE is able to monitor the ambient air quality and identify the source of air pollution from industries, open burning or emissions from vehicles and be prepared with the required action. The data obtained from the air quality monitoring stations are channeled to the Environmental Data Centre where it will then enable the relevant agencies, departments and ministries to carry out the appropriate interventions.

The air monitoring data translated into API readings will be a reflection of the current status of environmental air quality and this can be referred to at the Department of Environment (DOE) website at url address: [http://apims.doe.gov.my/public\\_v2/home.html](http://apims.doe.gov.my/public_v2/home.html).

Additionally, people can download the latest Air Pollutant Index (API) hourly readings by browsing the mobile Apps 'MyIPU' at the following links: -

Android Users:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=app.eqmp.my.apimsv2>

Apple Ipad / iPhone Users:

<https://itunes.apple.com/my/app/myipu/id1217372617?mt=8>

With the EQMP system and the applications, DOE is providing the public with up-to-date and quick information which will enable the people to plan their day-to-day activities.

**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
PUTRAJAYA  
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