



PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

FIRE INCIDENT AT KAWASAN PERINDUSTRIAN PASIR GUDANG, JOHOR ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) through the Department of Environment (DOE) is totally committed to keeping the air that we breathe and the water that we drink safe from all harmful pollutants. To this end, DOE constantly monitors the air quality, investigates any potential pollution incidents and takes the offenders to task.

The Ministry is also very concerned about issues that affect our neighbours. YB Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi Bin Tuanku Jaafar, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, is currently attending the 31st Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE) and the 30th Malaysia-Singapore Annual Exchange of Visits Meetings in Singapore from 28th September to 1st October 2017. The Honourable Minister will be meeting his counterpart, HE Masagos Zulkefli while in Singapore for bilateral discussions of current issues affecting both countries.

Recently, the DOE was informed of a fire incident that occurred at a factory in Pasir Gudang on Wednesday, 20th September 2017. The Fire and Rescue Department extinguished the flames in 20 minutes and cordoned off the premises while investigations of the cause of the fire were being carried out.

According to the ensuing investigations, it was determined that one of the plants in the factory had caught fire. The fire started in the 'oily pit' in the KCOT (KBR Catalytic Olefins Converter) Plant. It is suspected that 'hydrocarbon' gas is the cause of the fire.

The Air Quality Index in Pasir Gudang from 20 September 2017 to 28 September 2017 has been recorded as "Good". DOE also monitored gases at various points to ensure that the ambient air quality is at the acceptable limit. The results showed that no harmful gases or pollutants were detected. The DOE is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that no further pollution occurs due to the incident.

Written Notice under Section 31 and 37 of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 has been issued by DOE to the factory owners to prepare a detailed report of the incident and propose measures to ensure that the same incident does not occur in the future. Noncompliance upon expiry of the deadline will result in a RM25,000.00 fine plus RM1000.00 per day after the deadline and up to 2 years jail time.

The owners of the factory were also issued a compound fine of the maximum RM2000.00 for breaching the limit of the pH of the industrial effluent. Upon completion of the detailed investigations, action will be taken against the perpetrators based upon the provisions of the Environmental Quality Act 1974.

The Ministry would like to take this opportunity to remind all factory owners to ensure that their facilities are in good and excellent running condition at all times and to perform regular maintenance in order to avoid incidents like this in the future. We want to avoid such incidents from happening at all costs as it is hazardous to peoples' health.

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
PUTRAJAYA**

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20 September 2017 - Factory at Pasir Gudang Industrial Area on Fire



Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA) successfully put out the fire within 20 minutes



YB Dato Sri Dr Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, top management and senior officials of NRE at the 31st Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment (MSJCE)



YB Dato Sri Dr Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar and HE Masagos Zulkefli