

# Penang tells schools to stop all outdoor activities as haze hits 137

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GEORGE TOWN: The Penang state government has directed schools and sports organisations to stop all outdoor activities in view of the haze.

The directive was issued after Air Pollution Index reading in the south of the island in Balik Pulau hit 137 on Thursday (Sept 12).

State Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said 100,000 face masks would be issued immediately through state assemblymen.

"Priority will be for schools on the island as the mainland's API readings are below the critical level," he said at a press conference in the presence of Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow and state health committee chairman Dr Afif Bahardin in Komtar on Thursday (Sept 12).

Phee said the state would also come down hard on those who carried out open burning by imposing the maximum fine of RM500,000.

He said schools would remain open for now unless the situation worsened.