

As at 5pm, three areas in Malaysia have recorded very unhealthy API levels while 27 others have unhealthy API.

According to DOE data, API levels in Tangkak, Johor was 250, while Melaka city and in Kuching, Sarawak the API levels were 215 and 207 respectively.

Ten places in Sarawak, an area in Sabah along with 16 in Peninsular Malaysia had unhealthy API readings of between 101 and 200. An API reading from 0 and 50 is good while 51 to 100 is moderate, 101 to 200 is unhealthy, 201 to 300 very unhealthy and 301 and above deemed hazardous.

Despite the very unhealthy air quality, Melaka city, however, was bustling with tourism activities as hordes of visitors were sighted around popular tourist spots such as the Stadhuys, Jalan Kota and the Menara Taming Sari Tower.

Melaka River and Coastal Development Corporation chief executive officer Azlan Abidin said the Melaka River Cruise rides went on as scheduled.

“As a precautionary measure, we provide face masks to all patrons including staff who are on duty, ” he said, adding that free mineral water was also given to all patrons.

Meanwhile, the Melaka Housing, Local Government and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Tey Kok Kiew has called on houses of worship to hold special prayers for the haze and water shortage faced by the state. He said Melakans should pray hard for rainfall and added: “Let us all pray for divine intervention now.”