

# Checking visibility not indicative of API readings, public told

**SERDANG:** The Air Pollutant Index (API) readings issued by the Department of Environment (DOE) are average readings for 24 hours and have no direct correlation with the visibility range, says Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the readings channelled by DOE via Air Pollutants Index Malaysia were the country's official API readings and that the data were verified first before being displayed to the public.

"The public is advised to refer to the API readings released by the DOE only to avoid any confusion," she said after opening the Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing's new building at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang yesterday.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is also National Disaster Management

Agency (Nadma) chairman, was responding to the many queries about the accuracy of DOE's API readings due to the visibility range dropping in certain parts of the country on Sunday.

She said the use of PM2.5 (particulate matter up to 2.5 microns) in the calculation of the API followed international standards and was adopted by many countries for the sustainability of the environment.

As at 8am yesterday, 40 locations recorded unhealthy air quality while only Johan Setia in Klang is facing very unhealthy air quality with the API reading at 212.

An API between zero and 50 indicates good air quality; 51-100 (moderate); 101-200 (unhealthy); 201-300 (very unhealthy); 300 and above (hazardous).



**It's hazy out there:** Haze enveloping the wetland garden area in Putrajaya.