



BINTULU PORT AUTHORITY (SARAWAK)
PO Box 296 Tanjung Kidurong, Bintulu,
SARAWAK



PORT NOTICE

BINTULU PORT NOTICE

No. 33/2026

Date: 1 September 2026

To: Shipping Community and Port Users

Applicable to: Ship managers/owners, agents, masters and officers, crews, pilots, harbour-craft and service-boat operators, tug and mooring service providers, terminal and port operators, contractors, employers, and all persons working within Bintulu Port limits.

HAZE ALERT: RESTRICTED VISIBILITY AND SAFE OPERATIONS WITHIN BINTULU PORT LIMITS

BINTULU API: 232 - VERY UNHEALTHY

As at 0800 hours, 1 September 2026 (NREB Sarawak / DOE APIMS)

OPERATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO ACTUAL VISIBILITY AND PORT CONTROL DIRECTIONS

1. **CURRENT CONDITION.** The Natural Resources and Environment Board Sarawak reported an Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of **232 (Very Unhealthy)** for Bintulu at 0800 hours on 1 September 2026, based on official monitoring data. The API is a 24-hour running average and may change during the validity of this notice.
2. **VISIBILITY.** Haze may cause rapid and localised deterioration in horizontal visibility. API is an air-quality and health indicator; it is not a substitute for observed navigational visibility. Marine decisions shall be based on actual visibility, prevailing conditions, and directions issued by Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak) (BPAS) through Bintulu Port Control ("Mike Kilo").
3. **MONITORING AND REPORTING.** All parties shall monitor official updates from DOE MyEQMS/APIMS, NREB Sarawak, and MET Malaysia. Any sudden deterioration in visibility or unsafe condition shall be reported immediately to Mike Kilo on VHF Channel 12. Distress, urgency, and safety communications shall use VHF Channel 16 in accordance with established radio procedures.
4. **SAFE NAVIGATION.** Masters remain responsible for safe navigation and shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREG), particularly Rules 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, and 35. Vessels shall maintain a proper lookout and safe speed; make effective use of radar and all available means; exhibit required navigation lights and sound signals; and keep propulsion and steering ready for immediate manoeuvre. AIS supplements, but does not replace, proper lookout and radar.
5. **PRE-MOVEMENT READINESS.** Before any movement, the master and pilot (where carried) shall confirm that bridge, propulsion, steering, communications, navigation-light, and sound-signalling equipment are operational; maintain VHF watch on Channels 12 and 16; and report the movement to Mike Kilo. Agents shall promptly update ETA/ETD and notify affected parties of any delay.

6. **MINIMUM OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS.** Unless specifically authorised by the Authority following a case-specific safety assessment, no arrival, departure, pilot transfer, berthing, unberthing, shifting, or other controlled vessel movement shall commence when any of the following applies:
- 6.1 visibility in the relevant approach, channel, or berth is **less than 1 km**;
 - 6.2 gusting wind speed **exceeds 25 knots**;
 - 6.3 sea or swell at the port approaches **exceeds 2.50 m**;
 - 6.4 swell within the outer breakwater **exceeds 1.50 m**; or
 - 6.5 a more stringent terminal, vessel, pilotage, tug, mooring, or task-specific limit applies, or Port Control determines that conditions are unsafe.
7. **MIKE KILO DISCRETION.** *Mike Kilo* may suspend or restrict a movement at any time, including where visibility is 1 km or more, having regard to traffic density, vessel characteristics, equipment availability, pilot-transfer safety, wind and sea state, terminal limitations, or any other relevant condition. If visibility deteriorates after a movement has commenced, the master and pilot shall immediately notify *Mike Kilo* and take the safest available action. Schedule pressure shall not override safety.
8. **RESUMPTION AND COORDINATION.** Movements may resume only when *Mike Kilo* is satisfied that conditions and marine resources are safe. Port Operator (Bintulu Port Sdn. Bhd.) shall continuously monitor and report visibility and weather conditions and coordinate with the BPAS, pilots, tugs, mooring services, terminals, and agents. Shipping agents shall be prepared to revise ETA/ETD and berth programmes.
9. **HARBOUR CRAFT AND WORKBOATS.** All harbour craft and workboats shall navigate at a safe speed; display required lights and shapes; make prescribed sound signals; maintain AIS where fitted or required; maintain a listening watch on VHF Channels 12 and 16; and comply with *Mike Kilo*'s directions. Small craft shall not impede piloted or deep-draught vessels navigating in the channel.
10. **WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY.** While the API remains within 201-300 (Very Unhealthy), employers shall implement task-specific HIRARC and controls consistent with current Ministry of Health and DOSH haze guidance. At minimum, employers shall:
- 10.1 avoid strenuous outdoor work and deploy susceptible persons to indoor duties;
 - 10.2 provide suitable, fit-tested particulate respirators (for example, N95) to persons required to work outdoors, with instruction and supervision;
 - 10.3 provide hydration, work-rest rotation, and access to cleaner indoor rest areas; and
 - 10.4 review safety-critical outdoor activities, including line handling, lifting, work aloft, and vehicle movement, and stop any task where the risk cannot be adequately controlled. If the API rises above 300, heightened controls in the latest official guidance shall be applied immediately.
11. **CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY.** This notice does not relieve any master, pilot, operator, terminal, employer, or individual of any statutory or professional duty, or of the obligation to impose stricter controls where required. Directions issued by the BPAS or *Mike Kilo* for navigational or operational safety shall prevail.
12. **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** This notice comes into force immediately on 1 September 2026 and remains in force until withdrawn or superseded by the BPAS.



MOHAMMAD YOSHIKATRIEZAN BIN ABENG

Senior Manager (Operation)
Head of Regulatory Division

For General Manager
Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak)