



**MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA**  
**BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT**  
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,  
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,  
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**20 JANUARI 2020 (ISNIN)**

**AKHBAR**

**MUKA SURAT**

**The Star**

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# Dengue danger lurking outside

Transmission spot not at home or the workplace but at places in between

By LOH FOON FONG  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Contrary to popular belief, dengue infection is less likely to be contracted at home or at the workplace, but somewhere in between.

Former Association of Environmental Health (MAEH) vice-president S. Veeramohan said the dengue epicentre, a common transmission spot, is usually not in homes or offices/schools but elsewhere.

Veeramohan feels the government needs to target active epicentres of dengue infection more than homes and offices if it wants to bring down the alarming number of dengue cases in the country.

"To trace the epicentre, health authorities need to interview patients to find out the day dengue symptoms start and gauge when they are infected and trace the common route the various patients have taken.

"Once we establish the epicentre, we can eliminate it and end the transmission," said Veeramohan, who was an environmental health officer with the Health Ministry for 35 years before retiring in 2014.

His postulation is based on the study "Epidemiological aspects of an outbreak of dengue fever/dengue haemorrhagic fever in Singapore" (Southeast Asian J. Trop. Med. Public Health, 1987 Sep;18(3):295-302) by Singaporean epidemiologists/researchers Prof Dr Goh Kee Tai and four others which revealed that the outbreak (260 cases) in Singapore from April to September in 1986 originated from three separate foci of transmission – at the western, south-eastern and north-eastern parts of the island – and spread to other dengue receptive urban and sub-urban areas.

Veeramohan also said researchers have also found low incidence of infection among infants and the infirm in residential hotspot areas and this strengthened the hypothesis that infection is "being acquired



**Dangerous situation:** Sungai Rasah in Shah Alam littered with bottles and rubbish, causing the river to stagnate and mosquitoes to breed.

away from home" as suggested by seroepidemiological studies in Singapore by Goh KT, et. al., 1998.

He said this was the best possible explanation to why many dengue clusters and hotspots, which are mostly in residential areas, still accumulate cases and remained as hotspots, with many persisting for more than 100 days, despite fumigation and mosquito breeding sites destroyed in residential areas.

The Health Ministry's key performance index (KPI) on epidemic management is for all outbreaks to be controlled within 14 days, he said.

An outbreak occurs if there are more than one case in 14 days within 200m of each other. If it persists with more cases, it is an active cluster,

and if still uncontrolled after 30 days, it is a hotspot.

"I believe that mobility mapping to identify the location of realtime and potential epicentres is necessary for interrupting secondary transmission and eliminate the so-called 'hotspots'," he said.

Working with the MAEH, this strategy was successfully applied in places like Sitiawan and Seri Iskandar in Perak. In Kuala Lumpur, Setapak was the first area chosen for a pilot study in 2007.

In the three pilot areas, there was a "consistent absence of hotspots lasting more than 30 days" which resulted in a consistent drop in annual cases for at least three consecutive years, with Setapak reporting only 103 cases in 2013 as compared to 2,431 cases in 2006 before the start of the pilot.

"The most encouraging results were obtained after the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Vector control teams were briefed in late August 2014, which resulted in a consistent drop and absence of hotspots for 63 consecutive weeks in 2014," he said.

The strategy also paid dividends in Lembah Pantai where the vector team traced the epicentre to the open spaces outside of the Seputeh-Pantai Dalam area where the residents walk to the commuter station in Kerinchi; they found the Aedes larvae breeding in discarded litter in overgrown vegetation.

"We did larviciding and within two weeks, there were no more new cases in Lembah Pantai residential areas," he said, adding that with the same approach, the team got rid of "hotspots" in Kepong, Batu Caves, Wangsa Maju and Setiawangsa.

"This outcome proves that the proper identification and elimination of transmission sources in the urban outdoors resulted in sustained interruption of local transmission," he said.

However, the projects ended following a leadership change in DBKL in 2015. This is why Veeramohan is urging the current government to adopt this approach again.

Last year, Malaysia reported a total of 130,101 dengue cases with 182 deaths from January to Dec 28 last year, the highest ever for the country. The spike in dengue cases were also reported in many neighbouring countries.

Veeramohan said Malaysia has reported a high incidence of dengue fatalities in the Asian region second only to the Philippines.

"If we can control outbreaks as early as possible, we can definitely save lives," he added.

World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Arbovirus Reference and Research director Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar said Malaysia needs a "higher resolution surveillance" that target specifics and find out the route that patients travelled, rather than just observing "clusters".

"The current approach is to go by locality, and this is very "low resolution" because we look at clusters.

"We need to know the route individual patients take to find out when and where they were exposed," he said.

He said technology could be used to overcome shortage of manpower to get the information.

For instance, in Taiwan, the government distributes an app for patients to key in the information and the Health Ministry gathers the information and has a system that analyses the data.





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STARMETRO, MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2020

Ahmad Faizal (third from right) taking part in the ground-breaking ceremony for Pinji Botanics Sdn Bhd's Botani Village commercial project in Bandar Seri Botani, Ipoh. With him are (from left) state executive council members Tan Kar Hing and Paul Yong Choo Kiong, Gopeng MP Dr Lee Boon Chye, Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd chief executive officer Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian and State Secretary Datuk Ahmad Suaidi Abdul Rahim.

## Mixed project boon for locals

TS 20/1/2020 ms 2

By IVAN LOH  
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A VAST mixed commercial project is currently under way at Bandar Seri Botani, Ipoh.

The Botani Village commercial centre, to be developed on a 7ha piece of land, will have facilities such as a sports complex, bazaar area, food court, office block and fast food kiosk with drive-through.

The largest Eonsave hypermarket in the country will also be set up there, encompassing an area of about 0.9ha in size.

The project is said to have a gross development value of about RM200mil and expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu said the state welcomed the project as it would not only provide convenience to residents but also create job opportunities for locals in Ipoh.

"This is a flagship project for developer Pinji Botanics Sdn Bhd. "With more jobs, it will also improve the socio-economic status of the people here," he told reporters after a ground-breaking ceremony.

Ahmad Faizal also congratulated the developer for turning Bandar Seri Botani, formerly a rubber estate, into the satellite town that it has become.

"They have also made available a lot of recreational facilities for the people here.

"I understand many Ipoh folk like to go to the Eco Parks here to exercise and for other activities. "Building the facilities was not a condition imposed on the developer, they put them in place of their own accord.

"I hope other developers will take note of what has been created here and use it as an example," he said.

Bandar Seri Botani is the biggest township development in the state, encompassing about 506ha. Established in 2004 with about 1,200 affordable homes to meet the needs of the lower- and middle-income groups, the township now has a population of about 22,000.

**Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu**





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By BRENDA CH'NG  
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WITH the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) president's seat still vacant after former president Datuk Mohamad Yasid Bidin was transferred in November last year, the town is waiting in anticipation for the person who will be taking over.

Seeing as how MPK covers a very large area, many are hoping that the future president will be someone equipped with experience and efficiency in handling council matters along with community issues.

These include rubbish, cleanliness, basic infrastructure, safety and the town's overall image. Some even voiced expectations that the next president will improve services and get Klang upgraded to a city.

Talk of the town becoming a city has long been discussed, even before the former Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) showed interest in upgrading with the latter getting confirmation of its city status just before 2019 ended.

When *StarMetro* spoke to people on the ground, most of them said they want the incoming council chief to be more people-friendly and efficient in tackling daily grievances, especially regarding cleanliness, rubbish collection and contractors appointed for infrastructure upgrades or repairs.

Many Klangites were not too happy over the shoddy work of contractors over the past few years.

And although cleanliness had improved around town, they said it was not consistent.

Currently, the council is headed by acting president and MPK secretary Elya Marini Darmin who has hit the ground running ever since stepping up to the role.

According to officers in the council, she is always on the go and "fast and furious, like a monorail."

Ever since taking over the helm in November, Elya who was previously Selangor Land and Mines Office deputy director, already has a few plans in mind while working hard to implement initiatives that can help improve the town.

One of them is the illegal dumping whistleblower programme that she implemented recently.

Her idea is for the public to help MPK officers nab irresponsible culprits who dump waste, including domestic and bulk waste, by the road side or anywhere illegal.

A hotline has also been set up for the public to call in with information so that officers can take action against offenders.

Video footage or photographs are also encouraged so that

# High expectations of incoming chief

## Klang ratepayers say incoming council president needs to uplift town's image, among many tasks



Elya and MPK enforcement officers checking an illegal dumpsite in Jalan Kebun Nenas, Klang at night. (Right) The council chief will have to make sure the newly renovated Sultan Suleiman Stadium does not get waterlogged again. — Filepics

these culprits can be nabbed by authorities and effectively brought to book.

When *StarMetro* asked councillors and a few assemblymen about who they thought would likely be the perfect fit, they declined to give specific names but some noted that the current acting president looks promising.

Elya is liked by many in Klang and is active in residents' WhatsApp chat group. She also has the advantage of being able to speak Mandarin.

If the state government does appoint Elya as MPK president, she will be the fourth woman heading a local council in Selangor.

The first was Datin Paduka Alineh Ahmad who became Petaling Jaya mayor in 2013, which simultaneously made her the first woman mayor in Malaysia.

Current MPSJ president Noraini Roslan, was next to be chief of a local council and Kuala Selangor District Council president Rahulah Rahmat followed shortly after.

When contacted, Selangor local government, public transport and new village development committee chairman Ng Sze Han said no candidates had been shortlisted yet for the vacancy at MPK.

"It is too early to know at this point in time, but we do have a few qualified candidates from various departments who can take over the post," he said.

Ng added that no deadline had been set for when the next president should be sworn in.

There is no telling how long the seat will be left vacant. It was once unfilled for three-and-a-half years in 2010.

That was when former president Datuk Mislan Tugiu's term ended and the vacancy was temporarily filled by council secretary Ihsan Mukri who became acting president.

In October 2013, Datuk Mohammad Yacob was finally appointed MPK president.

During his two-year stint, Mohammad was considered a strict president who was known



Elya has shown her determination to stop illegal dumping in Klang during her tenure as acting chief.



Elya (front right) admiring murals on buildings in Jalan Dato Hamzah, Klang. — Filepic

among council staff as a no-nonsense disciplinarian.

Whoever the new MPK president is, the individual will have their work cut out for them as ratepayers' expectations are high with

ongoing projects such as the Padang Chetty redevelopment and construction of the LRT line to be monitored until fruition and long-standing problems like flooding to be resolved.



The incoming MPK president will have their hands full with numerous projects, including the transformation of Padang Chetty. — Filepic



Klang is undergoing major changes with a few big projects such as the LRT line that will be built over Emporium Makan, Jalan Pasar. — Filepic





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*Penularan wabak Influenza*

# Selangor paling tinggi

717 kes pelajar  
dijangkiti  
Influenza A, H1N1

Oleh Siti Azila Alias  
dan Amirul Aiman Hamsuddin  
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**Kuala Lumpur:** Penularan wabak influenza yang kebanyakannya membabitkan pelajar terus mencatat peningkatan dengan Selangor merekodkan bilangan tertinggi.

Di **Shah Alam**, kes mangsa dijangkiti wabak Influenza A dan H1N1 di Selangor meningkat kepada 717 pelajar berbanding 387 orang sebelum ini.

Pengarah Pendidikan Selangor, Dr Mahanom Mat Sam, berkata Petaling Perdana mencatat jumlah tertinggi iaitu 185 pelajar dari 62 sekolah, manakala Klang mempunyai 143 kes dari 51 sekolah, diikuti Petaling Utama dengan 102 kes dari 32 sekolah dan Sepang dengan 84 kes dari 17 sekolah.

"Semua pelajar terbabit menerima rawatan di klinik dan hospital serta dilaporkan stabil.

"Mereka diberi cuti rehat dan dinasihatkan supaya dikuarantin di rumah dalam tempoh tiga hingga tujuh hari," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Bagaimanapun, tiada sekolah ditutup di negeri itu berikutan peningkatan itu.

Di **Georgetown**, 198 pelajar disahkan positif influenza di Pulau Pinang setakat semalam, berbanding 178 kes kelmarin.

Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan Pulau Pinang, Abdul Rashid Abdul Samad, berkata jumlah itu mem-



**Guru bertugas melakukan saringan kesihatan** ke atas murid bagi mengawal penularan wabak Influenza A di Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Tunku, Petaling Jaya, semalam. (Foto Mohamad Shahril Badri Saali/BH)

babitkan pelajar dari 96 sekolah.

Katanya, daerah Seberang Perai Utara (SPU) dan Timur Laut mencatat kes terbanyak dengan masing-masing 54 kes.

"Sebanyak 37 kes direkodkan di daerah Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS), 35 kes di Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT) manakala Barat Daya, 18 kes.

"Setakat ini, tiga kelas ditutup berikutan jangkitan penyakit itu membabitkan dua kelas tahun dua Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC) Li Hwa dan satu lagi kelas prasekolah di SK Pinang Tunggal," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Sementara itu, **BERNAMA** melaporkan, di Perak, bilangan pelajar dijangkiti influenza meningkat kepada 94 orang membabitkan 55 sekolah di sembilan daerah.

Menurut jurucakap JPN Perak, mangsa membabitkan 19 orang dari daerah Bagan Datuk termasuk 10 di Sekolah Menengah Sains Teluk Intan (SEMESTI), Kinta (42), Larut Matang dan Selama (14), Manjung (lapan), Perak Tengah (tiga), Kuala Kangsar (empat), Kerian (dua) serta masing-masing satu di daerah Hilir Perak dan Batang Padang.

SEMESTI dalam daerah Bagan Datuk kekal satu-satunya sekolah yang ditutup selepas 10 pelajar positif influenza sejak Sabtu minggu lalu.

Di **Pahang**, 53 pelajar dan tiga guru dijangkiti influenza di sembilan daerah di negeri itu.

Pengarah Pendidikan negeri, Datuk Dr Tajuddin Mohd Yunus, berkata Kuantan merekodkan kes tertinggi iaitu 24 kes, diikuti

Pekan dengan tujuh kes.

Cameron Highlands dan Temerloh masing-masing merekodkan enam kes diikuti Maran (lima), Bentong (empat), Jerantut (dua) manakala Bera serta Rompin, mencatat satu kes.

"Setakat ini tiada sekolah ditutup kerana semua pesakit dikuarantin di rumah atau menerima rawatan di hospital," katanya.

Di **Negeri Sembilan**, Pengarah Pendidikan Negeri Sembilan, Datuk Pkharuddin Ghazali berkata, 119 murid dijangkiti influenza sejak sesi persekolahan dibuka pada 2 Januari lalu hingga hari ini.

Beliau berkata, ketika ini hanya 30 daripada 119 pelajar berada dalam proses pemulihan, manakala selebihnya sudah pulih.