



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
31 OKTOBER 2019 (KHAMIS)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

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By GRACE CHEN
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THE Hulu Langat district has the second highest number of dengue cases at 12,472 cases and 16 deaths up to Oct 16, putting Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) on high alert to tackle the disease.

Petaling district has the highest number of cases at 21,858 with 22 deaths.

MPKJ president Datuk Rosli Othman said of the affected areas in Hulu Langat, 73 were in the municipality and nine hotspots had been identified in Kajang, Sungai Ramal, Balakong, Dusun Tua and Semenyih.

"We have 9,087 cases with 11 deaths recorded. In light of the severity of the situation, I urge the Resident Representative Council (MPP) together with the district Health Department to have more awareness campaigns. There must be more community clean-ups and enforcement," he said.

On whether stiffer penalties would be meted out to offenders whose premises were found with Aedes mosquito breeding spots, Rosli said it was crucial for all parties to work together instead of resorting to punitive measures.

With dengue cases on the rise, the rubbish issue has also become a bone of contention. To-date, MPKJ's Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Department seized 13 lorries since Oct 22 for illegal dumping.

Dengue alert in Hulu Langat

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District has second highest number of cases in S'gor with 12,472 and 16 deaths

Rosli also urged members of the public to be mindful of where they dispose of bulk waste.

"We notice that bulk waste accumulates when people move house. This is when they throw out big items like cupboards, refrigerators and unwanted bed frames. I urge residents to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

"They can call MPKJ to find out which waste disposal contractors to get in touch with," said Rosli.

On the issue of pools of water accumulating on roads during heavy rain, Rosli said he would instruct the Engineering Department to visit the affected locations in Jalan Semenyih (in front of One Living electrical shop), Jalan Tun Abdul Aziz and Jalan Raja Haroun.

"We can find out the reason why water is stagnating on the roads. If we can prove that the contractors' work is

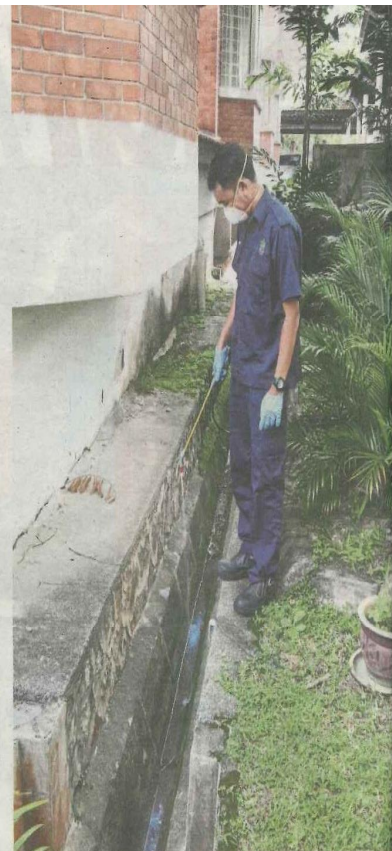
flawed, then we will make them do the necessary rectifications," said Rosli.

He also addressed a complaint forwarded by MPKJ councillor Edward So who brought up the presence of claw machine games at shoplots in the municipality.

Citing that claw machines could only be legally operated in shopping centres, So said it was unfair for one party to be given a business licence while others were denied due to a difference in location.

To this, Rosli said the council would consider whether licensing laws with regards to claw machines need to be reviewed.

"If there is an increase in the number of premises outside malls with claw machines, we will reconsider relooking at the licensing requirements," he said.



An MPKJ employee spraying larvicide in a drain at a residential area in Kajang. — Filepic



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Arresting the risk of dengue virus

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Wolbachia bacteria-carrying mosquitoes to be released nationwide in stages

KUALA LUMPUR: Aedes mosquitoes carrying the Wolbachia bacteria will be released nationwide in stages, says Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad. The Health Minister said the method could bring down the population of mosquitoes carrying the dengue virus.

He said under the first phase of the project, Aedes mosquitoes injected with the Wolbachia bacteria were released in the Petaling district

and Kuala Lumpur.

"The presence of the Wolbachia bacteria in the Aedes mosquitoes will retard the development of the dengue virus in mosquitoes and lower the risk of virus infections in humans.

"Based on the outcome of the project and the allocation provided, the release of the Aedes mosquitoes that contain the Wolbachia bacteria will be done nationwide in stages,"

he said when answering a question from Nor Azrina Surip (PH-Merbok) yesterday.

Dr Dzulkefly said studies by the Institute of Medical Research Malaysia revealed that the method had brought down dengue cases in the two localities by between 50% and 70%.

He also said a total of 154 people had died due to dengue as at Oct 26, which was a 48.1% rise in the num-

ber of fatalities compared to the same period last year, where 104 deaths were recorded.

"There were 108,606 cases compared to 61,254 cases for the same period last year.

"This is a 77.3% rise or an increase of 47,352 cases," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly said Selangor recorded 60,024 dengue cases followed by the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 13,435,

Johor (9,194), Kelantan (5,024), Sabah (4,444) and Penang (3,804).

He added that nine other states recorded less than 3,000 dengue cases respectively.

"The rise in the number of dengue cases is not happening only in Malaysia as there is a one to eight-fold increase in other countries such as Singapore, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, China and Taiwan," he said.