

# Educating the young to eradicate dengue

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■ By Noel Achariam  
streets@nstp.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** While dengue cases in the city have been reduced by 30 per cent, the fight against the Aedes mosquito continues.

To create awareness among the young, City Hall will now be introducing its Communication for Behavioural Impact programme (Combi) to all schools in the city.

The Combi programme aims at educating the young about the dangers of dengue and how to prevent its spread.

Federal Territories Deputy Minister Datuk M. Saravanan said that the Aedes menace need to be eradicated.

"The only way we can get rid of the Aedes problem at the root is to educate the young.

"We have taken a serious stand against the dengue cases that are slowly increasing among children, teachers and educators in schools," he said after launching the Combi campaign at Sek Keb Wangsa Maju Seksyen 2.

Saravanan said that there are two steps that need to be taken. The first is to create awareness of the dengue problem; the second is to educate the children on how to identify the breeding grounds of the Aedes mosquito.

"We hope that through the Combi programme, the school children and the school administration will be able to be more proactive in helping to fight dengue fever," he said.

The Combi campaign was organised recently in kampong in the city with the cooperation of the Health Ministry and City Hall to control dengue in Kuala Lumpur.



Federal Territories Deputy Minister Datuk M. Saravanan launching the Combi programme with City Hall health department director Dr Zainol Ariffin Pawanchee (left) and education department health supervisor Kobtiah Meor Abdullah (third from left).

Since early October, 3,742 cases of dengue fever, 255 cases of dengue haemorrhagic fever and nine deaths have been reported in FT.

Saravanan said the figures

were alarming and he hoped that the Combi programme will help ensure an Aedes-free environment.

"We shouldn't wait for the authorities to come and fog

our area or clean up Aedes breeding grounds: We all need to take the initiative to work together, only then will we be able to overcome the dengue problem," he said.