

32 dengue deaths in Selangor as of June

NEW STRAITS TIMES 29/06/2010 PAGE 53

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PETALING JAYA: Thirty-two deaths due to dengue were recorded up to early June this year for Selangor.

State executive councillor for Health, Plantation Workers, Poverty and Caring Government Dr Xavier Jayakumar said these were from the 332 confirmed dengue cases and majority of them were in the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council areas where there were 55 cases and two deaths.

This was followed by areas within the Shah Alam City Council with 29 cases and six deaths, Subang Jaya Municipal Council (26 cases and six deaths), Petaling Jaya City Council (14 cases and three deaths) and Kajang Municipal Council (11 cases and one death).

Xavier said every once in two years there would be a major dengue breakout and the peak would be during the first and last quarter of the year.

He added dengue was no longer a problem associated with the rural areas, as more and more cases were recorded in urban areas with high density population, uncollected rubbish and abandoned projects.

He also said there was an increase in the number of mosquito breeding grounds, especially when house owners did not check their surroundings and made sure they were clean.

Xavier said the public between the ages of 18 and 45 were more exposed to dengue because this age group move around frequently to go to colleges or work.

He said to effectively combat dengue, the public needed to work hand in hand with the authorities.

He added that both the Health Ministry and the state government had increased staff to curb the scourge.

"For example the Petaling Jaya City Council has 14 new health officers.

"Areas such as Subang Jaya has a young population who are constantly on the move and the cause of the problem may not necessarily be in their neighbourhood but they could have got dengue at their workplace.

"There's a slight decrease in reported dengue cases this year compared to last year during the same period. But most importantly the public must play their part and keep both the inside and outside of their houses clean."

Yesterday, Xavier along with Petaling Jaya deputy mayor Puasa Md Taib, councillor T. Anthony, and representatives of Subang Jaya and Klang Municipal Councils made house visits in Section 4 Petaling Jaya.

The objective was to check if residents had dog licences and also to spot dengue breeding grounds in houses.

Based on the visit, most dog owners do not have licences for their dogs and res-

REPORTED DENGUE CASES FROM JANUARY UNTIL JUNE 2010

Council	Reported dengue cases	Confirmed dengue cases	Deaths
Kajang municipal council	1930	11	1
Subang Jaya municipal council	1450	26	6
Ampang Jaya municipal council	1161	55	2
Shah Alam city council	1114	29	6
Petaling Jaya city council	1061	14	3

idents had containers and flower pots that had stagnant water.

Anthony said the door-to-door visits were effective because the council had taken a new approach to tackle both the dengue and the dog licensing issue.

He said awareness and education on what needed to be carried out were the best way to help residents understand the situation so that they could cooperate with the authori-

ties.

Anthony said it would benefit the council in the long run if the council officers were given good training on how to tackle difficult situations.

"Dogs and other pets are becoming more like family members, therefore they must have identification.

"Pets if they are well taken care of will not become a nuisance.

"We want responsible owners," said Anthony.

Dr Xavier Jayakumar visiting a house in Section 4 Petaling Jaya to check if residents have licences for their dogs and to spot dengue breeding ground in their homes. —

Picture by Saifullizan Tamadi

