

Lack of support in dengue war

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Raise fine to RM1,500 for homeowners whose properties are breeding grounds, says state rep



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THE 534 reported dengue cases and 37 identified hotspots in their township have Subang Jaya residents on edge.

Many of the worried residents are calling for increased fogging but Subang Jaya assemblyman Hannah Yeoh is of the view that fogging alone would not improve the situation.

Instead, she said, people needed an attitude-change.

"The dengue problem in Subang Jaya will not go away until people change their mindset and attitude," she said.

The Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) Health Department reported 30 dengue cases in SS18 in January, and two hotspot areas.

To-date, two deaths have been reported in Subang Jaya, in Taman Seri Puchong and USJ 12.

Yeoh said a new approach was needed and that the compound of RM500 for homes with aedes larvae was not enough for people to take the issue seriously.

"The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT) should take harsher action by raising the fine. I suggest that it be increased to RM1,500," she said.

"Search-and-destroy activities are held every weekend, especially in hotspot areas.

"We have organised many *gotong-royong* and similar campaigns but it seems hopeless because we are always visiting the same areas," Yeoh noted.

She was speaking at the search-and-destroy campaign in SS14 and SS18. Participating in the event were Zone 1 Residents' Committee (JKP) Dengue Squad, which comprises community leaders in Subang Jaya, JKP Zone 1 councillor Ken Chia and students from Sunway College who volunteered to clear rubbish bins of water and hand out flyers to

residents. Also present was Kelana Jaya MP Wong Chen.

Yeoh said there were many challenges when organising such events, one of which was the lack of support from residents especially those in hotspot areas.

"There are also those who choose not to open their doors to us or heed our advice to keep their household clear of any possible spots where mosquitoes can breed," she said.

She added that although banners were hung in SS18 to announce the clean-up, only a handful of residents turned up.

Wong, who also lamented the lack of support from residents in Kelana Jaya for such search-and-destroy programmes, said he would hand in a letter of appeal in Parliament when they sit in March, to raise the compound and empower enforcement officers.

A notice will also be submitted to KPKT and the Health Ministry to consider the proposal.



Search and destroy: Volunteers examining tyres for signs of mosquito breeding grounds during the campaign in Subang Jaya.