

# Households urged to clean up to prevent dengue



Children taking part in the gotong-royong in Taman Sentosa, Klang.



Klang Health Department spraying larvicide around houses in Taman Sentosa. — Photos: CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

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KLANG Municipal Council's (MPK) Health Department has warned people in the neighbourhoods of Sentosa constituency to clean up and remove stagnant water in and around their homes to protect themselves from the Aedes mosquitoes that carry the dengue disease.

Department director Azmi Muji said that from January to Aug 23, 1,275 people in the area had contracted dengue fever.

"Sentosa had seen three deaths

from dengue. They were a 35-year-old woman who died in January, a 21-year-old foreign worker in February and a 55-year-old man who succumbed to the disease in June," he said.

Sentosa tops the list of dengue cases among 11 constituencies in Klang district.

Dengue cases in other constituencies within MPK's jurisdiction are 1,125 in Kota Kemuning, 616 in Bandar Baru Klang, 593 in Klang, 555 in Port Klang, 534 in Meru, one fewer in Sungai Kandis, 512 in Sementa, 512 in Pandamaran, Batu

Tiga (49) and Kota Anggerik (17).

Klang district has had 6,263 cases with eight deaths from January to Aug 23. There were 9,474 cases and six deaths recorded in the corresponding period last year.

In 2019, Klang district had a total of 13,057 reported cases of dengue fever – its highest recorded since 2010 – with seven deaths.

MPK councillor Sabastine Rao Pragasam, who is in charge of the Sentosa area, organised a *gotong-royong* last Sunday with KRT Zone A Taman Sentosa, MPK's Environmental Services

Department and private cleaning contractors to remove all illegally dumped rubbish.

Sabastine said some 130 households were encouraged to clean up their home compounds.

"We also tell people to turn pails and watering cans upside down to prevent any potential for mosquitoes to breed."

He said that due to Covid 19, people were encouraged to clean their houses.

"During the joint clean-up, the standard operating procedures were followed where we did not

allow people to crowd any one place and we kept physical distance at all times. People were also told to wash their hands and wear a face mask.

"More than three lorry loads of rubbish were collected from all the houses and surrounding areas.

"Fogging was carried out after the clean-up exercise that ended at 12.30pm," he said.

Azmi advised residents to go to the nearest clinic or government hospital quickly if they experienced high fever, muscle pain and felt weak.