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Dengue

DENGUE FIGURES MISLEADING, SAYS DR KOH

PULAU PINANG, July 3 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today statistics on dengue cases in Pulau Pinang was misleading which gave the impression that the state has the most number of cases.

Before, 20 cases were reported every week but now, the figure had dwindled to 12 owing to effective preventive measures by local authorities, he said.

"As such, it is unfair to say that Pulau Pinang is among the states with the highest number of cases," he said after opening the Universiti Sains Malaysia-Penas computer laboratory at the university's campus, here.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh was reported to have said yesterday that Pulau Pinang was among the badly-hit states with an increase of 871.1 per cent or 437 cases in first six months of this year as compared with only 45 cases during the same period last year.

Dr Koh said that Pulau Pinang was the first state to impose deterrent penalties against developers by charging them in court or imposing heavy compound for "breeding" aedes mosquitoes.

He said 21 companies found "breeding" aedes were hauled up to court while 30 developers were issued with stop-work orders since the state government declared an all-out "war" on dengue in March.

Commenting on Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's announcement that he planned to quit as Primary Industries Minister by the end of this electoral term, Dr Koh, who is also Gerakan vice-chairman, said it clearly reflected that Dr Lim did not attach too much importance to positions and was prepared to sacrifice for national interests.

He, however, said that Dr Lim should remain in Cabinet as he was still energetic although he is 60 now.

"We have a good example in our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is more than 70, but still able to lead the country," he said.

Dr Koh, who is also Pulau Pinang Gerakan chief, said he had given his personal views to Dr Lim.

Dr Lim announced recently his intention to give up his minister's post to concentrate on politics. -- BERNAMA

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