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Ministry issues dengue warning

HULU TERENGGANU, Fri. - All State Health directors have been urged to step up enforcement at construction sites and take immediate action against developers and contractors whose project sites have become breeding grounds for the aedes mosquito.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the ministry would take stern action against the errant contractors and developers.

"Developers and contractors have to be responsible and ensure that construction sites do not become breeding grounds for the aedes.

"Failing to do so will only make the public perceive them as irresponsible citizens and the ministry will not hesitate to take stern action against them," she said.

Siti Zaharah said this in response to the dengue outbreak in Penang after launching a seminar, "Happy Family (Keluarga Bahagia)" organised by Wanita Umno Hulu Terengganu branch at Kuala Berang today.

It was reported yesterday there were 233 confirmed cases of dengue fever and one death reported up to April 5.

Penang State Health Department director Dr Shafie Ooyub said most urban centres in the State would register a high number of cases this year based on the past statistical trend.

Siti Zaharah also said that she supported the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to give ACA more freedom to investigate alleged graft cases.

The New Straits Times reported that eight State Exco members were under probe for alleged involvement in corruption practices involving millions of ringgit.

The Exco members comprised one each from Johor, Pahang, Kedah, Sabah and Selangor, and three from Malacca.

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