

24/04/1999

Ensuring success of cleanliness drive

Patrick Sennyah

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Government will mobilise all departments and agencies to ensure the success of the Anti-Mosquito and National Cleanliness Campaign.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said non-governmental organisations and voluntary bodies would be asked to form groups to destroy mosquito-breeding grounds in their areas.

Speaking after receiving contributions totalling RM91,749 from various organisations at his office today, he said the campaign was part of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's objective of seeing cleanliness standards in the country on par or better than European and other developed nations.

"The success of this campaign depends on change among the people," he said.

He said there were more than 13,000 malaria cases last year but no yellow fever cases.

He said village committees and Rukun Tetangga groups would be asked to carry out projects to clean up their areas while the Housing and Local Government and Health ministries would intensify fogging operations.

Meanwhile, Chua, who is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Japanese encephalitis, said there had been no cases of medical personnel providing care for JE and Nipah patients being infected.

He said the Atlanta-based Center for Disease Control had embarked on an "active-case detention exercise" where blood samples of 178 medical personnel had been taken.

"Though there have been no reported cases among health personnel, we are not taking chances," he said.

He added that the test results were not ready but were expected soon.

"We are still using the anti-viral drug Ribavirin to treat patients infected with the Nipah virus," he said.

(END)