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Chua-Gadget

MALAYSIAN SCIENTISTS WIN GOLD MEDAL FOR THEIR SPECIAL TOOL

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Two Malaysian scientists have come up with a special tool to measure resistance in insects, especially mosquitoes to insecticides.

Health Minister, Datuk Chua Jui Meng, said the find enabled Dr Lee Han Lim and Nazni Wasi Ahmad, from the Entomology Unit of the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) to take the gold medal at the International Exhibition of Inventions, Innovations and New Products held at Geneva, Switzerland, between May 1 and 5.

He said their tool was more practical compared to the traditional gadget that had been used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the past 40 years.

"The equipment has many advantages and it proves Malaysians are capable of contributing something valuable to the medical world."

"The quality is recognised and it's far better than the tool used by WHO," he told a press conference after opening the Fifth Health Scientific meeting today.

Chua said the tool to measure insects' resistance would help develop more effective controls on diseases spread by insects.

Operating the new gadget would be cheaper, faster and simpler he said.

"The new tool will be more accurate and results produced in just three hours compared to 11 days with the old tool. It will only cost 73 sen to analyse a mosquito compared to RM30 using the tool used by WHO," he said.

The Cabinet, he said was informed about the invention and the ministry was directed to label it as Malaysian before marketing it abroad.

"The process of getting a patent for the product is underway as instructed by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and for a start it will be marketed in the European Union, United States, Japan, Singapore and China," he said.

Dr Lee when met said it took a decade to develop the equipment which was considered a short period in the world of medical research.

He said the tool would be able to test enzymes produced by insects and results would be based on colours revealed by the tool.

"The darker the colour of enzyme the higher the resistance of the insect," said Dr Lee.

-- BERNAMA

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