

Dengue Cases Rise To 32,535 Cases During Three-Month Period

Bernama

Mar 31, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- Dengue cases has risen to 32,535 cases nationwide from January till March 29 this year compared to 23,633 cases during the same period last year.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said this indicated an increase of 37.7 per cent or 8,902 cases.

"Selangor contributed 59 per cent out of the total dengue cases nationwide and recorded 19,162 cases during the same period with 52 deaths," he said.

He said this in a statement after chairing the national committee meeting on dengue at Parliament House here today.

Muhyiddin said 101 deaths were reported from 59 deaths during the same period in 2014, an increase of 71.2 per cent.

Hence, he said, concerted efforts through the cooperation of the seven ministries and state governments had been reactivated to overcome the problem.

The setting up of the state level Dengue Special Task Force in every state to coordinate prevention activities and dengue control in collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies was among the six measures implemented that had brought about positive results, he said.

Besides that, he said the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry issued action plans to ensure local authorities that had hotspot localities improve their domestic and bulk waste collection aspects according to schedule.

He said local authorities also needed to ensure landfill sites, vacant land and public parks did not become aedes breeding grounds.

"The Communication and Multimedia Ministry has also intensified its information and promotion activities to instill civil responsibility and rectify public misunderstanding and misconception that the responsibility to control dengue lies solely with the government," he said.

Muhyiddin said the Education Ministry was also doubling its efforts to enhance the knowledge of school students on dengue during morning assemblies besides raising their role as 'change agent' by conducting search and destroy aedes breeding places with their family members at home.

He said the Home Ministry coordinated and deployed uniformed teams such as the police,

Civil Defence Department and Rela to help conduct dengue prevention and control activities.

The enforcement of the construction sites' Ops Gempur was being carried out by the Health Ministry besides conducting prosecution cases in court, he said.

Ops Gempur activities conducted from Feb 10 to March 14 this year revealed 95 percent of the 111 construction sites inspected bred aedes mosquitoes and all the offenders would be brought to court.

He said 80 construction sites were ordered to be closed.

Besides that, he said the Health Ministry also conducted a new control method, the Outdoor Residual Spray (ORS) involving 103 hotspot areas since Feb 11 in Petaling, Hulu Langat, Gombak and Klang districts.

Muhyiddin said the Health Ministry also implemented health promotion activities by involving in large scale community activities and using social media for that purpose.

He said the ministry also enhanced cooperation with private companies through corporate social responsibilities by conducting dengue prevention activities through the participation of students.

"Even though dengue cases had a shown a downward trend at present with an estimated 2,000 cases weekly, a prevention mechanism or strategy that is more effective must be implemented so that the momentum of reducing dengue cases can be maintained," he said.

He said dengue prevention and control measures needed to be conducted on a continuous basis by all parties, including the commitment of all strata of society and quarters, as it was very important to ensure dengue cases and dengue-related deaths were reduced.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1121860>