



BATTLE AGAINST DENNGUE

"Having non-professionals on board will be detrimental in the fight against dengue as over time, the mosquitoes build a resistance to the effect of the poisons administered."

Illegal fogging danger

About 80% of 84 fogging contractors registered in Selangor should have been prosecuted for operating without a licence from the Pesticides Board. Instead, they were given lucrative contracts with the authorities turning a blind eye to such illegal practices.

The days of "instant fogging contractors" will hopefully now come to an end. The state government and the 12 local councils will meet officials of the Pest Control Association of Malaysia (PCAM) today to rectify the situation.

It is learnt many of these pesticide companies received lucrative two-year contracts – each worth RM2 million – under the previous state administration.

The PCAM is concerned that having non-professionals on board will be detrimental in the fight against dengue as over time, the mosquitoes build a resistance to the effects of the poisons administered.

Its president, Ang Tan Loong, said the firms registered under the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry's Pesticides Board may not have received proper instructions on the dosages required to overcome the resistance that the Aedes mosquitoes have developed.

"The risks involved in having unregistered and unqualified contractors carrying out fogging is the lack of expertise in dosages involved, and new methods to rid the larvae," Ang told *theSun* yesterday.

He said PCAM has been invited by the state government to draw up strategies in today's meeting with 25 representatives of local councils, mostly comprising health directors.

Ang inferred that some in the state government had aided and abetted the unlicensed contractors, by giving excuses that they have licences to store and sell chemicals.

"But they do not have the licence to administer these pesticides, that is, the pest control operation's licence," Ang said.

In his letter to the state government offering PCAM's services, Ang said the present mode of thermal fogging is constrained as the mosquitoes tend to "flee" and are repelled from one fogged area to another only to return when they again are fogged in that particular area.

Over time, the mosquitoes build a resistance to the effects of the poisons used.

"Our main offensive is to create a smoke screen with the circumventing Anti-Spiral Fogging System which creates a smoke trap, enveloping from the perimeter of the targeted area and spiralling to the epicentre, as opposed to the conventional method of fogging which tends to chase mosquitoes," Ang said.

A Pesticides Board official said there over 300 pesticide companies registered with the board, and admitted that there are "many" illegal pesticides used.

She said in the fight against dengue, the firms involved have to inform the board about the works to be carried out, the pesticide registered with the board and the permit for the advertisement to inform the public on the fogging times.

Pest control companies without the necessary permits can be jailed six months and fines RM1,000 for the first offence under the Pesticides Act 1974. Subsequent offences will incur a year's jail, a fine of RM2,000 or both.

In 2007, the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) came under fire for trying to set up a consortium of pest controllers not registered with PCAM or the Pesticides Board. The then MPSJ president, Datuk Md Arif Ab Rahman, is today state financial officer while the general manager of the consortium, Othman Omar, was recently appointed general manager of state-owned PKNS.

-theSun, Tuesday 30 June 2009

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Fast answers needed as death rate increases in H1N1

EDITOR'S NOTE

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androo@pcam.com.my

Comments by Joseph Masilamany Sun Papers
August 19, 2009 (Wednesday)

"The death rate frequency per A(H1N1) infection in Malaysia is alarming, at 1 to 60 cases - the Highest in the Asean region with patient fatality percent (PFP) of 1.66 with around 4,000 cases of infection & about 70 deaths as of August, 2009. Malaysia fared poorly in dealing with the pandemic.

Where have we gone wrong? What have we not done right? In which direction are we headed? Quick answers are required to these questions to stem the tide as any pandemic, like hurricane, is a force of nature. Just look at the comparison table in Asean countries.

Death Rate Per Infection in Asean Countries

Country	No. of cases	Deaths	% Dead	Frequency
1. Malaysia	3,857	64	1.66	1 in 60
2. Singapore	1,217	11	0.90	1 in 111
3. Thailand	11,585	97	0.84	1 in 119
4. Laos	156	1	0.64	1 in 156
5. Indonesia	854	5	0.59	1 in 171
6. Philippines	3,207	10	0.31	1 in 321
7. Vietnam	1,454	2	0.14	1 in 727
8. Brunei	850	1	0.12	1 in 850

Source: www.flucount.org

We are now aware that H1N1 deaths in Malaysia are occurring in the community. We are mindful that we are up against a motley strain of flu which is as morbid as the Spanish flu. By all counts, the A (H1N1) is more than just a "mild" Mexican shuffle! If all this seems like gloom & doom, the H1N1 strain which is ever in a state of flux, evolving into new genes and seeking new hosts."

A (H1N1) means:-

A refers to the influenza category (A or B)
H is Haemagglutinin, a surface protein that binds the virus to the host cell that is being attacked.
N is for neuraminidase, an enzyme that penetrates the host cell.
There are 16 kinds of H and only 9 kinds of N to indicate the numerical digits in the flu strains.
In a nutshell, the Hs and Ns are blueprints that help to finger print the emerging strains and that is how viral types are identified and named.

The comments by Mr Joseph Masilamany tell us that this infections is a pandemic. And much needs to be done by the many parties like Ministry of Health, and the Government as a whole and with the co-operation of the public.

(1)_One suggested way to control the spread of this infection is to reduce or cancel functions or gathering which are crowded like the Merdeka Celebrations etc, Marathon running, schools and universities and other public places with congregation & congestion of people.

(2)_Another suggestion is to give free masks to wear in all those places mentioned if the gathering or functions cannot be canceled.

(3)_Also, a suggestion is to study quickly the use of fogging machines or sprayers etc. to shoot disinfectants in public places especially schools, hospitals, Bus stations, Transport centres like KL Sentral, places with high human traffic, etc. with good disinfectants to reduce the spread of this deadly virus.

(4)_Most important of all is "Washing hands, the best defense against A (H1N1)."

The virus 'escaped' from clusters in the first place & spilled into the streets due to our "Lackadaisical" attitude. Our Government should put STRINGENT PROTOCOL for Malaysians to follow in the Public Places as well as at home. Let this be an ORDER still the pandemic is contained. Mexico took 1 1/2 months to contain the pandemic with stringent measures. It postponed classes or meetings/functions for over one million students and people to avoid a resurgence of the flu.

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Announcement

Welcome PCAM new Honorary Member Dato' Sofian Bin Mohd Salleh, DPMT, PJC

Appointment date: 1st August, 2009

CURRICULUM VITAE:

PERSONAL DATA

Name : Dato' Sofian bin Mohd Salleh,
D.P.M, P.T.C

Immediate Past Position : Director General,
Department of Agriculture,
Malaysia.

Date/Place of Birth : 15/01/1952
Kemaman, Terengganu,
Malaysia.

Age : 57 years old

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

a) B.Agric.Sc. (Hons. Agric. Econs.), Australia
b) M.Sc. (Agricultural Journalism), University of Winconsin,
Maidson, USA
c) Certificate in Agric. Extension (Edinburgh, United Kingdom)

AWARDS

a) **Pangkat Jasa Cemerlang (PJC)** - 1997
- D.Y.M.M Sultan
Terengganu

b) **Dato' Paduka Mahkota Terengganu
[DPMT], which carries the title Dato** - 1998
- D.Y.M.M Sultan
Terengganu

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

a) Member, Australian Institute of Agriculture Science (AIAS)
b) Member, Institute of Public Relations, Malaysia (MIPRM)

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS

i) Commercial development of the Citrus Industry in
Terengganu
ii) Incubation Programme for Agricultural Entrepreneurs

Work Experience (from 1975 to 2008)

Jan. 1975	First appointed as Agriculture Officer for West Pahang Region
Aug. '80	Head of Communication Section, ELU Project, KL
Dec. '85	Head of Public Relations, MOA
June, '86	Asst. Director, Communication Support Division
June, '89	Asst. Director (International Relations)
April, '91	Asst. Director (Training & Career Development)
April, '92	Director of Communication
June, '95	Director of Agriculture, Terengganu State
Aug. 2000	Director of Human Resource Development Division
Feb. 2004	Deputy Director General of Agriculture II
April, 2005	Deputy Director General of Agriculture I
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Trainers: 3

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- **Pn Sumathy** (*Dosage/Maths calculations*)
- **En.Razali** (*Practical & Demo*)

Topics covered:

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2. Principles and practices of fumigation
3. Introduction to ISPM 15 & its rules
4. Safety & First Aid in Fumigation
5. Protective Equipment, tools, machines & its application
6. Exam Preparations and calculations



• Fumigation class Group photo



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