

Cleanliness key to dengue prevention, says DPM

KUALA LUMPUR: The people should focus on maintaining the cleanliness of the surroundings they live in and carry out gotong-royong to prevent the spread of diseases like dengue, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said there were 85,270 dengue cases reported between January and Aug 17 this year, an increase of 38,726 cases or 83.2% from last year.

"Don't wait until a problem has struck home before taking action. This is your residence. So, look after its cleanliness and safety," she said during an anti-dengue gotong-royong programme at Pangsapuri 610 near Ampang yesterday.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is Pandan MP, said the increase in dengue cases was normally due to people's lack of concern for cleanliness.

"How many of us are concerned about maintaining the cleanliness of the environment? We don't have to go far. Just look around our houses.

"Surely, there would be something that has been overlooked, like water that has accumulated in a disused container," she said.

"Gotong-royong activities do not mean getting outsiders to come and clean up your place of residence. It means local communities cooperating to maintain the cleanliness of these areas," she said.

The programme, which was organised by the Pandan constituency and Rcomm Lestari, saw Dr Wan Azizah joining apartment residents to collect rubbish and clean drains.

— Bernama