



The mosquito magnet machine will be installed between Sekolah Agama Menengah Bestari Subang Jaya's teachers' quarters and the school.

Ng (right) and volunteers taking part in the clean-up to address the rising number of dengue cases in USJ5/1 and USJ5/2. — Photos: SHAARI CHE MAT/The Star

Collective effort to combat dengue menace

Gotong-royong organised to address rising number of cases in USJ5

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THERE have been eight dengue cases reported in USJ5/1 since July 26 and seven cases in USJ5/2 within the past two weeks.

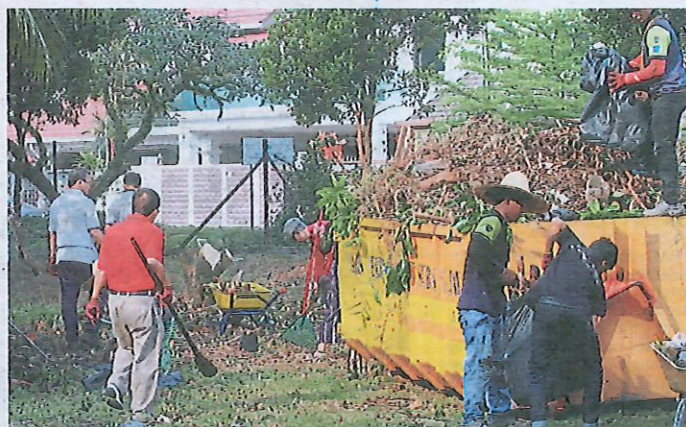
To address the rising number of cases, Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng, USJ5 Residents Association (RA), Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) and Zon 4 Residents Committee (JKP) pitched in for a clean-up over the weekend and installed a mosquito magnet machine in the affected areas.

They cleaned up Sekolah Agama Menengah Bestari Subang Jaya teachers' quarters as well as surrounding areas in Jalan USJ5/1.

"This initiative is very meaningful as it promotes good neighbourliness.

"And by lending a hand to clean up the school, we are raising awareness of the importance of keeping a clean environment," said Ng.

Volunteers disposed of piles of dried rubbish, leaves and branches besides clearing blocked drains and stagnant pools that could potentially become breeding sites for



Volunteers taking part in a gotong-royong in USJ5.

Aedes mosquitoes.

USJ5 RA chairman Presannan Anandhan, 55, said that rather than wait for MPSJ to take the lead, residents decided to step in to help overcome the problem.

The volunteers were provided with two large roll-on, roll-off bins to help in the disposal of rubbish and bulk waste.

MPSJ Zone 4 councillor Kamarul Hisham Yeop Hashim said this was a good beginning to educate residents on the importance of keeping their environment clean.

"KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd agreed to help us manage the waste as part of their CSR contribution."

Aside from carrying out the gotong-royong, the volunteers have installed a mosquito magnet machine which emits an odour that attracts and traps mosquitoes.

Ng hopes the technology will be effective in addressing the mosquito problem.

The machine will be placed between the teachers' quarters and the school.

"MPSJ will review the use of the machine after three months and if it proves effective, we will try to purchase more units to be placed in other hotspot areas in Subang Jaya," she said.

Ng asked residents to spend at least 10 minutes a week to check their compounds for stagnant water or signs of potential Aedes mosquito-breeding grounds.

Petaling District Health Office personnel will also conduct checks in the area and destroy any larvae found.

Ng noted that sometimes fogging was not that effective as "mosquitoes may become resistant and it also affects humans and other helpful insects."

"The common breeding spots for mosquitoes are dish drainers, washing machines, gutters, flowerpots and satellite dishes as well as toilet bowls in empty houses."

She added that the situation could become an "uncontrollable epidemic" if mosquito-breeding grounds were not elimi-



Mosquitoes are attracted to the odour emitted by the mosquito magnet machine.

Residents of the teachers' quarters in USJ5 have been provided with 1.1g of abate for the elimination of any mosquito larvae sufficient for up to three months' use.

The residents will be taught how to conduct 10-minute weekly checks for Aedes larvae.

The school's principal Nadzarah Mahmud was grateful for the collaborative effort.

"After almost 20 dengue cases involving both teachers and students, we knew it was time to take action."

She said the school would draw up a roster for students and teachers to monitor cleanliness in their surrounding areas.

Ng said it was important to tackle the problem at source as early as possible and that the only long-term solution was for residents themselves to take charge in



Lending a helping hand

Kota Melaka MP Khoo Poay Tiong (left) visiting former state hockey player C. Rajah Naransamy at his home in Pantar Peringgit, Melaka. The 75-year-old is facing financial hardship as he is suffering from ill health and has to care for his two grandchildren as well. Khoo said he would look into Rajah's plight and raise the matter with Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman. Apart from hockey, Rajah played badminton and tennis too for various sports clubs in Melaka and is also a qualified