

Dengue Prevention Efforts



The Straits Times - 12 Oct 05, Wed

Residents turn mozzie busters

JUST a week into the job, retiree-turned-health inspector Chua Soo Kiat has already found and eliminated two mosquito breeding spots around his neighbourhood.

Both times, he reminded the home owners to overturn their flowerpot plates to prevent water from collecting in them.

The 56-year-old said: "They were very grateful. They said they had checked not too long ago, but they probably didn't know that it takes just one week for an egg to become a mosquito."

Mr Chua is one of 15 residents hired by Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council to search for potential mosquito breeding places in common areas of housing estates.

The programme is a stop-gap measure put in place until the town council engages a dedicated pest control operator early next month, which is required under new National Environment Agency (NEA) rules.

Dr Teo Ho Pin, chairman of the town council and mayor of Northwest Community Development Council, said: "The pest control operator will need to employ quite a number of workers, so we thought, 'Why not take this opportunity to train a pool of people who could possibly be hired later?'"

The inspectors, who are paid about \$100 a week, began work on Oct 3 after attending a full-day NEA training course.

Mr Chua said: "It's not really about the money. I see it more as answering the call of social duty."

Still, he would consider taking up the job full time "if the pay is OK".

Lianhe Zaobao - 11 Oct 2005, Tues

失业居民当伊蚊稽查员

穿上鲜艳绿色制服的刘国强 (36岁) 是稽查员, 不过他所稽查的目标比较特别, 不是垃圾虫或犯罪者, 而是在日益肆虐的伊蚊。

失业了两年多的刘国强, 从上星期起在所居住的武吉班让组屋区展开巡查和稽查工作, 任务是查看哪里有伊蚊滋生或可能滋生伊蚊的角落。

刘国强每天工作4小时, 周末休息, 每小时赚5元, 每周薪水100元。他接受本报采访时说, 他觉得这份工作相当有趣, 而且就在住家附近, 非常方便。

“除了得晒太阳流汗, 这份工作不算太辛苦。至今, 我所碰到的居民都很合作, 有的甚至很感谢我们帮他们检查伊蚊滋生处。”

不过, 和刘国强上一份文员的工作比较, 他觉得这份“伊蚊稽查员”的收入偏低。

雇用失业居民为“伊蚊稽查员”是荷兰—武吉班让市镇理事会、西北社区发展理事会与国家环境局联合推出的新计划, 至今有15名失业居民参与, 他们接受国家环境局的训练, 成为临时伊蚊控制人员。新计划的推出能舒缓害虫控制业的人力需求, 同时为失业居民提供工作。



荷兰—武吉班让市镇理事会雇居民为“伊蚊稽查员”。(市镇理事会照片)

Today News - 11 Oct 05, Tues

15 jobless citizens enlisted in the mozzie inspectors' brigade

THE Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council has recruited 15 unemployed residents as mozzie inspectors.

Their responsibilities are to carry out daily checks in HDB blocks and to help destroy mosquito breeding sites.

After completing training with the National Environment Agency, the group started their inspection rounds a week ago.

One of them is 23-year-old Redwan Norman, a former National Serviceman.

"We bring checklists along with us during our rounds. We have to ensure that the condition of the surroundings tallies with the mentioned requirements," he said.

"For example, if drains are choked and contain stagnant water, we write a brief description of the situation in a remarks column. In this way, we determine whether it is a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes."

"Although it's tiring, it's an interesting job because, at the end of the day, you get the satisfaction of having taken responsibility for something important," he added.

The mozzie inspectors are clad in luminous green T-shirts and armed with insect repellent. They work for about five hours every morning from Monday to Friday and earn \$100 a week.

At the end of their rounds, the inspectors return their checklists to the Town Council for follow-ups. Any potential mosquito problems are handled by its officials.



SEARCH AND DESTROY: Armed with insect repellent, the mozzie inspectors work for five hours a day on weekdays and earn \$100 a week.

The Ministry of Health has reported 55 new cases of dengue in the past 24 hours.

The College of Family Physicians has also issued an advisory to help general practitioners better diagnose the disease.

The nine-page advisory will be sent to 1,200 family doctors on the college's mailing list, following feedback from doctors about the difficulties in detecting dengue.

Censor-in-chief of the college Dr Lee Kheng Hock said this was an important move as many patients eventually turn to their GPs after initial tests – taken at hospitals during the early stages of dengue – fail to reveal the disease. —S38LIVE

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灭蚊海报高三层楼

张挂在武吉班让万吉路第259座组屋外的这幅巨型海报, 足足有三层楼高。

仔细一瞧, 上面印着国家环境局制定的《10分钟灭蚊行动》步骤。如此一来, 居民在进出时只需抬头一看, 便能自我提醒采取防蚊措施。

这是荷兰—武吉班让市镇理事会为教育居民而想出来的点子。除了张挂巨型海报, 它也在区内所有组屋的屋檐放置了BTI杀虫剂, 并销毁许多有可能让伊蚊滋生的角落。

