

**AKHBAR : KOSMO**  
**MUKA SURAT : 8**  
**RUANGAN : NEGARA**

## Virus Chikungunya tidak merebak ke Perlis

**KANGAR** - Virus Chikungunya yang dilaporkan melanda Hatyai di selatan Thailand sejak minggu lalu, tidak merebak ke Perlis, kata Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri, Dr Sirajuddin Hashim.

Katanya, jabatan itu mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dengan memasang poster dan alat pengimbas suhu badan di Kompleks Imigresen Kastam dan Kuarantin (CIQ) Padang Besar supaya orang ramai dan rakyat

asing yang datang dari negara itu boleh memeriksa suhu badan bagi mengesan virus tersebut.

"Chikungunya tidak melibatkan kematian kerana ia hanyalah penyakit ringan disebabkan bawaan vektor

oleh nyamuk aedes," katanya.

Baru-baru ini, media tempatan Thailand, Bangkok Post melaporkan virus Chikungunya yang lazimnya berlaku di negara Afrika dikesan di Hatyai. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 17  
RUANGAN : VIEWS

## Smoking workers the bane of their colleagues

I WORK for a company with about 60 employees, of whom fewer than 10, including the CEO and director, smoke. To ensure that the smokers do not spend too much time smoking outside, our director built a room for them inside the office. However, the smoking room was poorly built and does not prevent the cigarette smoke from seeping into the open office space.

To make matters worse, the CEO and director smoke in their respective rooms. The cigarette smoke seeps out through the gaps in the door and whenever they come out of their room. It is the same with the smoking room.

I have read the anti-smoking policy and I know that smoking is not allowed in any air-conditioned

working spaces with a centralised air conditioning system. I guess this is how my current company is able to get away with smoking indoors – our air conditioners are stand-alones. Our director has installed an air purifier but it's not turned on all the time.

In the past year, we have had an extraordinarily high number of medical leave with many employees claiming their ill health was due to the cigarette smoke. Many have complained of headaches, skin problems and coughing.

Our senior management does not understand that it is not just the second-hand smoke that affects the staff but also the third-hand smoke that we bring home to our families.

Despite numerous complaints

from the employees, the management has only attempted to improve the existing smoking room and implemented short-term solutions. So I wrote to the Health Ministry and Human Resources Ministry to explain our predicament. However, I have yet to receive any reply from either ministry even after two months.

I don't believe it's fair that for the convenience of a few, the majority have to compromise their health. And we don't even get health insurance. I understand that it is the director's company, and he does think about making the smoking bearable for us, but I believe smoking indoors should just be stopped. I strongly believe that it's the duty of the director to

take care of his/her employees, be it their work or health.

**STRESSED OUT**  
Kuala Lumpur



your  
opinions

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Letters must carry the sender's full name, address and telephone number. A pseudonym may be included.