

<p>Friday March 20, 2009</p><p align="justify">
BUKIT GANTANG: Dengue cases and deaths increased significantly in the first three months of the year compared with the same period last year due to the rainy spell.</p><p align="justify">Thirty-three people out of 12,179 cases have died from Jan 1 to March 16. There were 8,212 cases with 14 deaths in the period last year.</p> <p align="justify">Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the rainy season and dirty housing areas were the main reasons for the rise in dengue cases.</p><p align="justify">He said there were 1,068 cases this year compared with 946 last year in Perak, which has the second highest number of cases after Selangor.</p><p align="justify">◆It◆s also partly the apathetic attitude of the people of not taking care of the cleanliness of their homes,◆ he told reporters after visiting the Changkat Jering health clinic yesterday.</p><p align="justify">◆Continuous efforts to educate the people and campaigns to eradicate dengue fever are on-going nationwide,◆ he said, adding that the ministry has spent about RM10mil in campaigns to combat dengue and other diseases.</p><p align="justify">On another matter, Liow said the ministry had approved RM60mil to build a maternity and childcare centre and cardiology unit at the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital in Ipoh.</p><p align="justify">He said the facilities would be operational in three years◆ time.</p><p align="justify">He said the cardiology unit would only be equipped with angiogram services and not bypass and open-heart surgery facilities.</p><p align="justify">On the Bukit Gantang by-elections, Liow said the MCA had made preparations and would go all out to ensure a victory for Barisan Nasional.</p><p align="justify">◆We have met the grassroots in new villages to thrash out their problems,◆ he said, adding that most of their problems have been solved.</p><p align="justify">He said the party was more focused in solving the people◆s predicament and attending to young voters to get their support.</p><p align="justify">Source: http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/3/20/nation/3517184&sec=nation</p>