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Green fogging solution for the future

Council receives recognition for turning used cooking oil into Aedes Bio-Based Fuel

By **VINCENT TAN**

vincent.tan@thestar.com.my

THE Sepang Municipal Council (MPSp) has been acknowledged by the Malaysian Book of Records (MBR) as the "First Local Authority to use Biodiesel Formulation for Aedes Fogging".

MPSp president Datuk Puasa Md Taib received the certification from MBR's assistant manager Ayman Izzaz during the full board meeting yesterday.

The council's Health and Environment Department had collaborated for over a year and a half with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia's (FRIM) BioMass Technology Programme to turn used cooking oil into an "Aedes Bio-Based Fuel" (ABBF).

Puasa said the council allocated RM168,000 for the research and test foggings at dengue hotspots in the municipality had shown that it was effective.

Dr Wan Asma Ibrahim, who heads the FRIM programme, said the use of bio-diesel compared to normal fossil fuel showed that it had less negative effects.

"When you use normal diesel, you have toxic effects such as stinging eyes and the smell.

"But when we used this in the test areas, everyone could leave

their doors and windows open," she said.

The reduced toxicity also means that MPSp could save on medical fees for its workers involved in fogging over the long run.

Health and Environment Department director Kuzaini Hamidon said that test foggings had been conducted at Taman Dengkil Jaya and Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi.

"The entire adult population of mosquitoes were wiped out with a solution of the ABBF and pesticide one hour after the fogging," said Hamidon.

The main setback is finding enough used cooking oil to feed the conversion process, as every tonne of used cooking oil, roughly 80% is converted into the fogging solution.

"Using this used cooking oil solution also helps prevent unscrupulous people from filtering and reprocessing the oil for sale again," said Dr Wan Asma when outlining the biofuel-based fogging solution's benefits.

Puasa added that to supplement MPSp's own oil-collection effort,

the municipality would look into promoting the new fogging solution with other local governments in Malaysia.

During the meeting, Selangor's plastic bag ban was brought up, with councillor Sivakumar Periasamy saying that if traders

were no longer allowed to supply plastic bags for free, they should come up with alternatives instead of continuing to charge consumers RM0.20 for each plastic bag.

Puasa explained that he would take up Sivakumar's suggestion at

the next Local Government standing committee meeting.

The council is also in the process of effecting its own ban on polystyrene containers, which was supposed to take place next year, but has been brought forward to April.



Dr Wan Asma (second from left) and Puasa holding the MBR certificate while MBR representative Ayman Izzaz (left) and MPSp deputy president Muhammad Hafiz Shaari look on during the presentation.