

# EDITORS NOTE

## A N D R O O S U N G

### Pest Control Consortium by Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya

Before the year 2006 finishes, there seem to be so many depressing news and events in our country & abroad, beginning with rising oil prices, rising timber prices, electricity hikes with falling stocks market worldwide, inflation and sagging economy. This is the scenario in the international and national economic arena. The only comforting anti-climax to all these economic woes is the current FIFA World Cup Football Competition.

In our Pest Control Industry too, there seem to be challenging events happening! One of which is the recent announcement by the Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya (MPSJ), a local council, to set up a Pest Consortium whereby all business premises must have pest control services before their premise's license is approved by MPSJ. And the business owners can only take up the pest control services from their Consortium members of MPSJ.

With this notice, most of the customers of Pest Control Operators (PCOs) are worried that if they do not comply to MPSJ's ruling i.e. to support their appointed PCOs from their Consortium, their business premise license will not be approved by MPSJ or their renewal of the premise license will be put on hold. This effectively will prevent PCOs and PCAM members (who are all PCOs) in sourcing business in Subang Jaya. Assuming that this ruling is passed, other Municipal Council may follow suit. Then, the PCOs can "jolly good" - kiss goodbye to their Pest Control business.

This is serious! However, all is not loss as PCAM, being the voice of our Pest Control Industry have taken pro-active measures to address the MPSJ Pest Consortium issue. To start with, PCAM have already written to the press in the Star Mail on 26 May, '06 to express PCAM dissatisfaction. PCAM also wrote to the Pesticide Board on this issue. And PCAM did not leave it to rest. Members were invited to 2 forums organized on 10 and 24 June, '06 They were a lot of views and suggestions. In the end a Consortium Dialogue Sub-Committee was formed. Also, it was tabled to engage a legal advisor and to start a legal aid fund for the purpose of monitoring the legal progress of this "unfair trade practices" of setting a consortium by the MPSJ.

At this juncture, PCAM urge members to close ranks and not to deal or negotiate with MPSJ alone. As mentioned in **our Oct.'05 newsletter: Editor's note**, an Association is a very powerful entity if properly used. Its power far exceed that of an individual company or person when a voice is heard or actions be taken. And it is impersonal! This is the wonderful strength of the Association. And that is one of the reasons of being a member. PCAM always believe in the old adage that **"Unity is Strength"** and PCAM will endeavor to steadfastly uphold our principle of looking after the members' interest. Hence, MEMBERS, please encourage more PCOs to join us to become stronger to face challenges in our Pest Control Industry. Thank you.