

# EDITOR'S NOTE

A N D R O O S U N G

## **Pest News beyond borders**

**Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya (MPSJ) – Local Council  
Very important issue for members to stand by PCAM**

It appears the council (MPSJ) has come up with another requirement for Pest Control Operators (PCOs) before they can be on the council's panel. The council has imposed a RM5,000 bond on the PCOs. To date, only a handful PCOs were registered with the panel. It is believed among the handful were companies who were part of the earlier controversial consortium which MPSJ wanted to set-up 5 months ago!

The PCOs were told that they could be in the panel as long as they are members of the Pesticide Board. However, those registered with the Pesticide Board still have problems registering with the panel. Many PCOs were wondering why MPSJ took so long to response to their panel application. They were told by MPSJ that their application requires further documentation. Upon checking, the MPSJ made a ruling to impose a RM5,000 mandatory bond payment.

MPSJ's reasons for the bond payment imposition.

- To ensure the PCOs is responsible and committed to their customers.
- To use the deposits to carry out damage-control works when the PCOs fail to perform their services efficiently.
- To top-up the deposits as and when required if MPSJ deem necessary to fine the PCOs for shoddy or unsatisfactory performances.

After the Pest Control Consortium created by MPSJ has been stopped and over-ruled by the Selangor Menteri Besar in September, 2006 PCOs agreed to comply and register to be on the panel of MPSJ out of respect for the Menteri Besar. However, with the imposition of the performance bond of RM5,000 by MPSJ, PCOs were again unhappy over such a ruling.

The PCOs felt that there weren't any need in the first place for them to register with the council (MPSJ) or need to comply with its conditions because:-

- The PCOs are not the council's contractors
- The PCOs's services are not paid by the council.
- The public are the customers who engage and pay the PCOs
- The customers have the prerogative to choose their own pest controllers

Questions to ponder:

1. Any regulations or ordinances enacted, there must be specific citations, interpretations and penalties clearly spelt out by which an offender can be brought to book.

**IS MPSJ THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SUCH A RULING?**

2. If it is within the by-laws of the local governments, there should be a blanket ruling for all businesses. **THEN WHY DOES MPSJ HAS SUCH A RULING FOR PEST CONTROL OPERATORS AND NOT OTHERS?**