

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Our deepest condolences to the families of passengers and crew of flight MH370

HOME NATION STREETS WORLD BUSINESS TIMES SPORTS LIFE & TIMES OPINION GALLERIES 7 DAY NEWS CHANNELS

COLUMNIST



17 February 2012 | last updated at 11:19PM

[Email](#) [Print](#)

Towards national kaizen movement in our schools

By Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ahmad Bajunid
iabaiw@yahoo.com

[comments](#)

Students deserve the best from the school food programme

THERE have been cases of food poisoning in almost all the states of Malaysia. While there are the occasional cases of food poisoning in the National Service training programme camps and in universities, there has also been the recurring issue of food poisoning in schools.

Food poisoning in schools, like food poisoning in homes, is not acceptable.

Recorded cases are of students who came down with food poisoning after drinking milk, eating nasi lemak, mee, sambal sotong or after taking soft drinks.

There have been cases of cholera, typhoid, Hepatitis A and dysentery. Symptoms of various kinds of health matters include fever, coughs, head and body aches and joint pains.

Students are our precious generation and their experiences in educational institutions will guide them to live their tomorrows well or otherwise.

When we provide them the best examples of life and living, it is most likely that when they are parents and adult citizens themselves they will continue to cherish whatever standards of living they experience.

School socialisations are expected to be positive and confidence- and trust-building.

As we want our children to receive the best of books from the national textbook programmes, school children also deserve the best of food from the school food programme.

Every measure should be taken to prevent the food poisoning experience.

OPINION

[Editorial](#)

[Columnist](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Comment](#)

STREETS



TREAT FOR FOOD CONNOISSEURS



Reaching out to the young

MOST READ

- Thomas Cup: Malaysia a step closer to semifinals
- 10-vehicle pile-up at KL-Karak Expressway crash
- Car prices to fall further
- Malaysia world's 12th most competitive nation
- Najib welcomes Japan's participation in KL-Spore high-speed rail link
- Malaysia, Japan to boost economic, defence ties
- Cargo manifest 'released on May 1'
- Woman found 10 years after kidnapping
- Khairy demands report on protest outside Penang assembly building
- Malaysia 12th most attractive to investors
- Tunku Bendahara of Kedah passes away at 75
- Badminton: Thomas Cup, Uber Cup results
- Najib visits Astana to enhance Malaysia-Kazakhstan ties
- Lin Dan against any change in points system
- Malaysia, a great market for luxury cars

[MORE](#)



Sub-contractors for the transportation of milk should be monitored.

Improper storage, leftover chicken, fish or other meat should not be reused; utensils and equipment should be clean; there should be clean water supply; toilet facilities must be well maintained and sanitised; food prepared must be edible. There are issues of pests and pets, cockroaches and rodents carrying bacteria and diseases. The poor hygiene of food handlers must be stopped and there must be uncompromising standards of hygiene set. The standards should improve, not remain stagnant or, worse still, deteriorate.

Typically food handlers do not have formal education, some only have primary education, the majority may have secondary education and very few have tertiary education.

Nowadays there are food handlers who are from foreign countries like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Myanmar, China and the Middle East.

Those involved in food preparation must wash hands, vegetables and fruits thoroughly; separate cutting knives should be used for raw foods, cooked foods, meat and fruits. All this seems elementary and common sense but is not practised. Malaysia has a relatively small population.

If as a small population we cannot manage the cleanliness of our private and public spaces, how would it be when we are 70 million people and more?

The various ministries and agencies, at all levels, have to put their act together and ensure that the health of the students and citizenry be given priority.

Enforcement agencies should work with the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations, the Consumers Association of Penang, the Muslim Consumers Association and other bodies which have been clamouring for tougher laws and regulations, and strict enforcement.

Food handlers should wear a chef's hat and gloves and should have access to clean water to clean themselves well. We cannot go on accepting substandard facilities and services.

There must not be the two worlds of Malaysia -- the five-star hotels and the squatter-like food stalls.

A nation which is developed has the highest standards of cleanliness and quality in the smallest of food outlets.

Leadership at the supervisor level is critical. Also, supervisors should be assisted by strong systematic reporting protocols, monitoring and strict enforcement.

As we build a healthy Malaysia when school children and parents are literate about exercise, health and diet with no junk food, we shall prevent the incidences of obesity and food related diseases.

To this end, we should be enlightened that the concept of halal food is not merely the kosher or Islamic rites of animal slaughter and food preparation but is the overall lifestyle of cleanliness as a way of life; clean living in all activities of life, for cleanliness is akin to piouness.

It is time we seriously implement a National Kaizen Movement (continuous improvement movement), beginning in schools and with our

NSTP FAMILY SITES

[Harian Metro](#)

[Berita Harian](#)

[Business Times](#)

[My Gadget Planet](#)

[Travelific](#)

[Harum](#)

[Eats](#)

[Properties](#)

[News Image Bank \(NIB\)](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

[New Economic Model](#)

[NST Reviews](#)

[NiEXUS](#)

[Friends of Travel Times](#)

[Property News](#)

[NSTLIVE Archive](#)

[Spell-It-Right](#)

COFFEE BREAK

[Sudoku](#)



comprehensive, holistic cleanliness agenda.



Medical officers taking statements from SK Seri Bakti pupils at the Kuala Nerang Hospital after a case of suspected food poisoning last year.

< 1 / 1 >

Google +

RECOMMENDED

[Bukit Gelugor: PCM's Huan urges EC not to take legal action](#) (New Straits Times)

[MH370 'movie' draws condemnation](#) (New Straits Times)

[Court argues it has no jurisdiction to hear assemblyman's seditious...](#) (New Straits Times)

[Australian tourist killed in boating accident](#) (New Straits Times)

[Police deny rape, accuse 'victim' of seeking sex](#) (New Straits Times)

[Streaking woman shocks many in Balik Pulau](#) (New Straits Times)

FROM AROUND THE WEB

[3 top eats at Bentong](#) (HungryGoWhere)

[Aged Windows XP costs 5x more to manage than Windows 7](#) (Computerworld)

[Best prawn mee in Malaysia](#) (HungryGoWhere)

[Prepare Your Company Now to Survive the End of Windows XP](#) (HP)

[How to Pack a Suitcase like a Flight Attendant](#) (Learnist)

[Credit Cards in Malaysia - Types of Credit Cards](#) (iMoney)

Recommended by

Secondary School

sis.sunway.edu.my

Ranked Among The World's Best Edu. Register Online Here Today!

RELATED ARTICLES



[HPV vaccination in Malaysia relevant](#)



[Consumers Day Teachers' award introduced](#)



[Penang farmers told to practise organic farming](#)



[EVENTS: Habits for financial well-being](#)

Expired products still sold



Leave Your Comment

 Login With Facebook

HOME	NATION	STREETS	WORLD	BUSINESS	SPORTS	LIFE & TIMES	OPINION	GALLERIES	7 DAY NEWS	CHANNELS
Top News	General	Central		TIMES	Soccer	Tech	Editorial	Image	Monday	Gadget
Latest	Politics	Northern			Badminton	Health	Columnist	Video	Tuesday	Eats
RSS Page	Extras	Johor			Cricket	Style	Letters To The	Infographics	Wednesday	Travelific
Didik Malaysia					Racing	Travel	Editor		Thursday	Harum
					Other	Showbiz	Comment		Friday	Leaming Curve
						Live			Saturday	You
						Sunday Life & Times			Sunday	Niexter

[Mobile](#) [News Archive](#) [1Klassifieds](#) [Property Auction](#) [Twitter](#) [RSS](#) [Personal Data Protection Notice](#) [Disclaimer](#)

Copyright © 2011 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad. All rights reserved.