im community and Singapore that will save
people suffering from organ failure.
help make this happen. I sincerely hope that few
le will choose to opt out... I am pleased to note that
ack has indicated that few people have any
tion of doing so."

AACOB IBRAHIM on the Muslim community's
ort of the amendment to Hota. Top religious
rs issued a fatwa, or ruling, in July last year
ing Muslims to be automatic organ donors
r the law.

PROF THIO LI-ANN: She asked if opting out of Hota could be simplified.

PROF Thio asked if opting out of Hota could be simplified, say, done electronically. She also asked about the consequences of opting out of donating one organ and not others.

Mr Khaw said the present system was quite simple but he would look into it to see if it could be further simplified. Doing it electronically was a problem as witnesses were required, he added.

As for selectively opting out, he said it would not affect a person's chances of receiving other organs.

chool bullies becoming bolder, brainier: Lily Neo

By Ho Ai Li

HING an online video ssault on a 13-year-old r Lily Neo felt over- y nausea.

girl was punched and d by other girls, and ack was recorded and irculated on the Inter-

ating this in Parliament day, the Jalan Besar GRC MP wanted to make the point that bullying in schools is a serious problem which the Ministry of Education (MOE) should do more to address.

She cited surveys, such as the one done by the Coalition against Bullying for Children and Youth (Cabcy), which found that 94.7 per cent of 4,000 students polled had been bullied.

The school bully has not only been "working overtime", but is also becoming "bolder and brainier", she said.

Dr Neo, who chairs the Government Parliamentary Committee for Education, said bullying has led to a suicide and a significant number of hospitalisations.

To tackle the problem, she suggested that the MOE train teachers to deal with bullying as well as provide more information on the issue.

The ministry could consider implementing anti-bullying policies and work more closely with groups such as the Singapore Children's Society (SCS), which runs anti-bullying programmes.

She concluded: "MOE should sweep away the years of inaction which have caused pain and anguish to both students and parents."

In response, Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew said his ministry took a serious view of bullying.

While he agrees more could be done in areas such as training teachers to handle bullying, he said statistics vary and could be "an issue of contention".

Figures vary depending on definitions of bullying, for example.

The 2006 MOE figure of 3.7 per cent per 1,000 students is collated from reported school offences of those bullying cases that involved hurting, frightening or intimidating others.

Other surveys define bullying more broadly, he said.

But the ministry's internal surveys have shown that the extent of bullying is not as high as the almost 95 per cent figure reported by Cabcy.

Rather, it is somewhere between 20 and 30 per cent, he said, closer to surveys by the SCS and Health Promotion Board which put the figure at between 21 and 32 per cent.

IKUNGUNYA OUTBREAK

ne more found with disease, NEA eps up mosquito control efforts

r Lee Hui Chieh

more individual has found to be infected hikungunya, the mosqui- ne, dengue-like disease, ng the total number in- l so far to nine.

e are in the Communica- Disease Centre (CDC). thers have recovered.

e latest patient to be dia- d lodged in Dickson

is spread by the Aedes mosquito and causes similar symptoms such as fever, joint pains and nausea, but is rarely fatal.

The CDC's clinical director, Associate Professor Leo Yee Sin, told The Straits Times yesterdaythat as the number of infected patients is low, there is probably not a large "human reservoir" of virus which can be spread to mosquitoes, and then to more humans.

She added: "Coupled with good mosquito control, it is

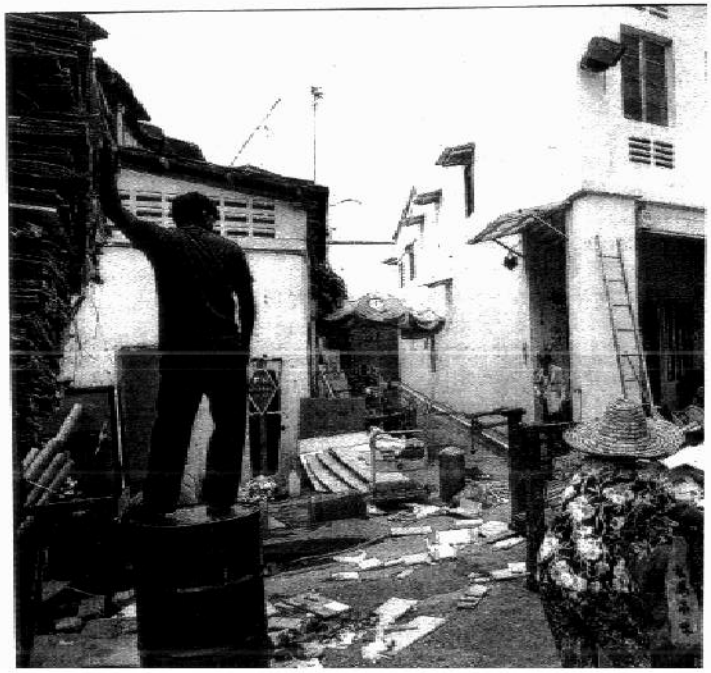
But the outbreak will be considered over only when no new cases have been found within 24 days of the previous one, she said.

Since health officers were first notified of a case by a general practitioner last Monday, they have taken blood samples from 822 people living or working within a 150m radius of the patient.

Over the past week, the National Environment Agency

for having breeding sites on their properties.

It has also fogged the Clive Street vicinity repeatedly.

Many patients were from the same shophouse in Clive Street. Another, a male tourist from India, lodged in a shophouse opposite.

An assistant in a wine shop on the ground floor of the second shophouse, Mr Dhasan Munusamy, 40, said the shop gets about 20 customers a day now, down from about 30 be-