

OUTBREAK

2 SARAWAK SIBLINGS DIE OF RABIES

The two were among three confirmed infected cases in Serian

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TWO siblings infected by rabies died at Sarawak General Hospital here yesterday.

The 4-year-old boy and his sister, 6, from Kampung Paon, Sungai Rimu, in Serian were among three confirmed cases infected by the disease in the state.

Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian said in a statement that the two victims were pronounced dead at 1.43pm and 1.46pm respectively.

"They have been diagnosed to be brain dead, and the parents have agreed for their life support to be withdrawn," he said.

Another victim, a seven-year-old girl from Kampung Lebor, Gedung, is still ventilated and categorised as critically ill.

The bodies were taken to the mortuary at 3.30pm, where family and relatives were seen gathered in tears and comforting each other.

Two hearses carrying the coffins for the siblings left the hospital about 5pm, heading to

their village located 80km away.

It was reported that the three victims were initially thought to suffer from viral encephalitis, as they showed symptoms of fever, abnormal behaviour and aggression at times, and were afraid of water.

The children were warded at the intensive care unit of Sarawak General Hospital where two of them were put on ventilators.

Further investigation found that two of the victims had been bitten by a dog about a month or two before the manifestation of symptoms.

The hospital notified the Sarawak Health Department on June 22.

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