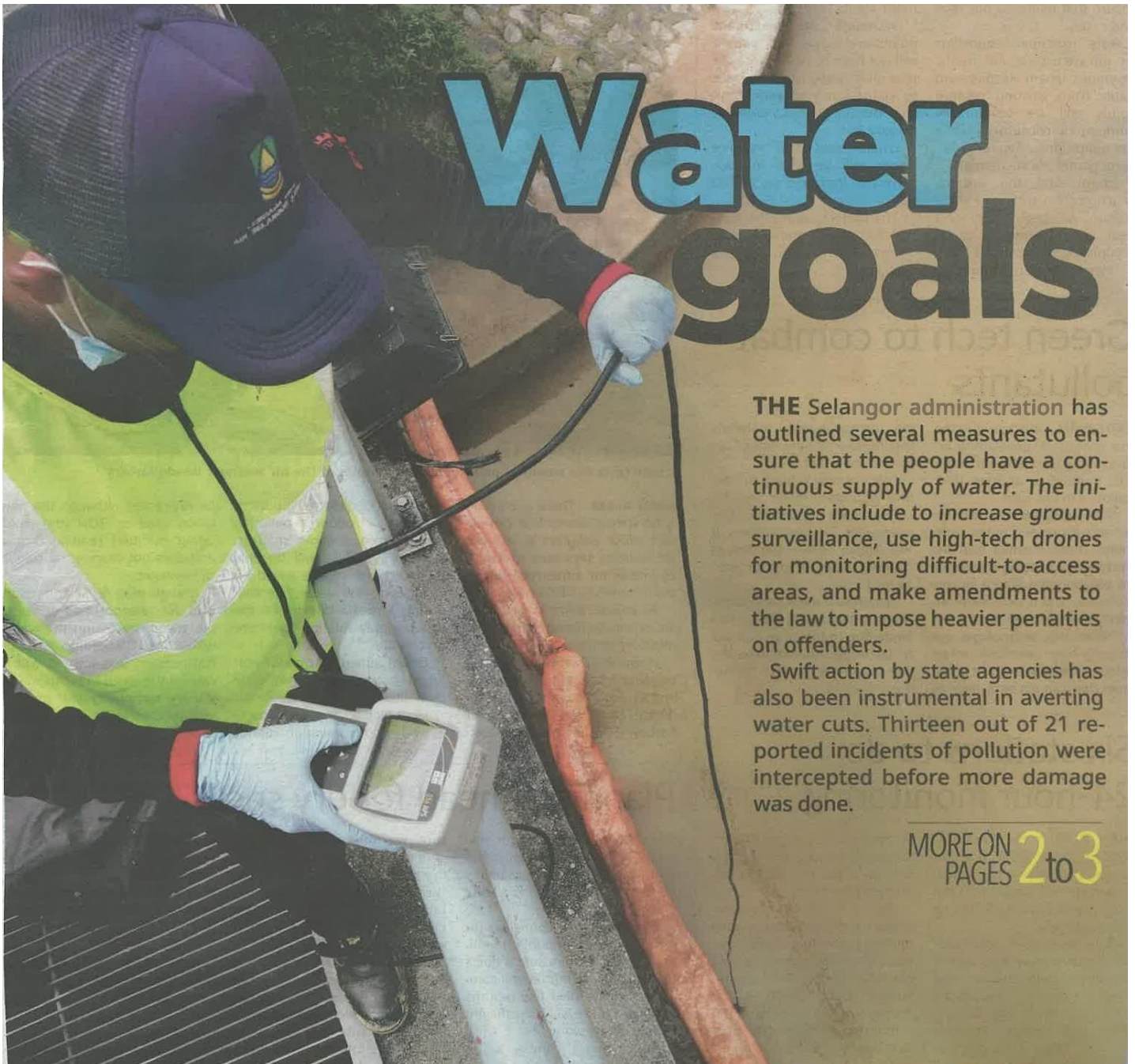


LEMBAGA URUS AIR SELANGOR
(UNIT KORPORAT)

AKHBAR : SELANGOR

TARIKH : DISEMBER 2020

KERATAN AKHBAR



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River diversion may be the remedy

By NORRASZYDAH ARSHAD

SHAH ALAM - A pilot project to divert river water during a pollution incident is underway to ensure that users do not face water cuts.

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhah Hashim said water from existing reserve ponds will be temporarily pumped to consumers while the operations of water treatment plants are suspended.

Izhah said the project, which costs a total of RM200 million, will begin early next year and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

"When the static station de-

fects a pollution, we will stop the flow of the polluted river water immediately to avoid it from entering the surface water intake of the water treatment plants (WTPs).

"Although the treatment plants are suspended, people will not have to worry because this pilot project will operate to keep supplying water," he said during a media briefing on Nov 26.

Izhah said the reserve ponds will be able to supply water that lasts up to 100 days.

The project covers the Rantau Panjang, Semenyih, and Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2 and 3 WTPs.

Green tech to combat pollutants

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is in the final stages of developing an environment-friendly and high-tech method to address river pollution in the state.

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhah Hashim said the technology is being developed in collaboration with a private company and a local water expert.

"With this technology, our experts have identified certain microorganisms that live in the river that can act as a filter to

the contaminated materials and increase the amount of oxygen in the water.

"We are now waiting for the final laboratory report and if it succeeds, we will use this technology for Selangor's rivers. It will directly reduce the cost of treating water for consumers," he said.

Izhah said the state government is also facing a big challenge due to the large number of factories situated near the two main river basins - Bema-

Six stations to do 24-hour monitoring

SHAH ALAM - Six fixed stations are being built near the Sungai Selangor and Sungai Semenyih river basins for continuous monitoring of the raw water sources.

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhah Hashim said three stations will be placed at Rantau Panjang, Sungai Gong and Sungai Sembah for the Sungai Selangor basin, while another three will

be located at Sungai Pajam, Sungai Beranang and Sungai Semenyih for the Sungai Semenyih basin.

"We build these stations because we do not want to only rely on patrolling. Right now, there are already two stations placed at Sungai Sembah and Sungai Gong," said Izhah during a media briefing on the solution plan to resolve pollution issues at Sungai Selangor and Sungai Semenyih.

Hard to sniff out odour pollution



Izhah tests the smells of polluted water samples at the Air Selangor headquarters

SHAH ALAM - There is currently no special device that can detect odour pollution at raw water sources, says state executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhah Hashim.

"Whenever there is pollution, it can only be detected using the olfactory sense.

However, Izhah said the state government is planning on using an organic carbon analyser device, called the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) analyser, to detect

the source of odour pollution.

"Usually odour pollution comes from organic matters, hence this device will be able to detect the source based on changes to the water," he said during a media briefing on the water supply solution plan here on Nov 26.

Izhah added that odour pollution occurs more frequently than diesel or palm oil spills.

He explained that water sources with odour pollution cannot

be processed although the pollution level or TON (threshold odour number) reading is low and does not change the colour of the water.

"Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) had once experienced processing the water with a one TON reading. A chemical reaction was formed which caused the smell to be stronger. We are complying with the advice by the Health Ministry," he said.

Planning ahead for dry spells

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government is drafting a preparation plan to face the possibility of water disruption in the state during long droughts.

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhah Hashim said a holistic study on the matter will commence in the next few months to ensure there will be sufficient supply of raw water.

"Even though there is no drought season in the near fu-

ture, we must not be complacent because we faced a serious dry spell in 2018. Following that, the Hybrid Off River Augmentation System (HORAS) and the Offstream River System (ORS) were developed.

"I am confident that within the next 10 years, we would be better prepared being that water disruption does not only happen because of pollution or burst pipes but also droughts," said Izhah during Media Setor-

gor's Buat Bicara talk show titled Pencemaran Air: Siapa Buat Onar? (Water pollution: Who is causing the interference?) broadcast live on Facebook on Nov 23.

Izhah had also advised the people to use water prudently as the water consumption rate in the state is at 5,000 MLD (million litres per day), which is the highest in the country and surpasses the recommendation by the World Health Organisation.

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Amended Luas Enactment awaits royal assent

By KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN

GOMBAK - The Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) Amendment Bill 2020, which includes heavier penalties against polluters, will be enforced within a month after it was passed at the Selangor Legislative Assembly on Nov 9.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Aminudin Shari said several processes have to be carried out in order to gazette the amended law, which includes seeking the consent of the Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj.

"Once His Royal Highness has granted the royal assent, the Bill will become law within a month's time."

"After that, any individual found guilty of polluting the rivers will face heavier punishments," he said when met after attending a briefing on operations to tear down illegal structures near the Selangor river basin, held at the Selangor Municipal Council office here on Nov 24.

The amendments to the Luas Enactment 1999 were passed at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly after a string of pollution incidents left millions of taps in the state dry.

The Bill was approved with 13 amendments which include increasing the minimum penalty to RM200,000 and setting the maximum fine to not more than RM1 million as well as a mandatory jail term.

The amendments also include the requirement for offenders to pay Luas the cost of cleaning up the polluted water.

Drones to survey remote parts of river basins

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has engaged with the world's third-largest drone company to effectively watch over its rivers.

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhom Hashim said the state will be counting on the expertise of Aerodyne Group for two years to monitor the river basin areas that are inaccessible to enforcement officers.

He said the use of drones is crucial to detect pollution incidents at river basins that are exposed to risks as well as to be used as evidence in court.

"This company uses drone technology that is not only able to monitor the rivers but also collect water samples. We did not buy the devices but are only utilising the company's services," said Izhom at a briefing on Selangor's water supply issues held at the Selangor State Secretariat building on Nov 26.

Izhom said the expertise of the homegrown drone technology firm is also used in the US to monitor ports.

The Selangor administration has also allocated RM2 million for the use of four high-technology drones, with two being used to oversee the Sungai Langat river basin starting this month.

Another two of the devices are being assigned to monitor Sungai Klang and Sungai Selangor.

Many water cuts prevented, says MB

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has managed to promptly resolve 13 raw water pollution incidents this year, preventing the closure of water treatment plants (WTP), says its Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Aminudin Shari said a total of 21 cases of river pollution were detected in the year 2020, with the latest incident reported on Nov 25 near Bandar Bukit Mahkota, Cheras.

"However, some of the incidents could not be avoided."

"The main constraint is that there is no technology able to detect odour pollution and (we) need to rely solely on the human nose," said Aminudin on Nov 30.

In addressing the issue, he said the state government has allocated RM200 million in the 2021 Selangor Budget.

"Through a short and long term

strategy, the state government aims to continue preserving the water supply sources," he said.

Meanwhile, state executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izhom Hashim said on Nov 26 that among the types of pollution detected include nine oil spills, seven from odour pollution, three from industrial and aquaculture effluent discharge and one case due to turbidity.

Cash reward for reporting environmental crimes

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government is offering a reward, totalling RM20,000, to members of the public for information on any environmental crime that can lead to the arrest of the perpetrators.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Aminudin Shari said the reward is an incentive to get members of the public involved in protecting Selangor's natural surroundings.

He said in cases where an offence has been committed, information is needed so that legal action can be taken against the offenders.

"The state government has formulated various short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies to minimise the impact of river pollution on the people in Selangor."

"With public support and involvement, a joint responsibility to com-

serve water resources will be more effective against such criminal activities," he said on Nov 27.

On Nov 10, the Ministry of Environment and Water offered a reward of RM5,000 to anyone who could provide information and evidence that could lead to the arrest of individuals who caused Selangor's rivers to become polluted, resulting in water supply disruption in the state. - Bernama



Authorities from MPS and Gombak Land and District Office demolishing a heavy machinery workshop that was built illegally along the river banks of Sungai Garing, Rawang, on Dec 1

More evictions, demolitions on the way

GOMBAK - Four more illegally built premises that pose a high risk of causing pollution to Sungai Rawang will be demolished.

Selangor Municipal Council (MPS) president Shamsul Shahril Badliza Mohd Noor said an eviction notice was served to the owners and seizure of assets will be done if they fail to comply.

"Out of the eight premises identified along Sungai Rawang, we de-

molished three heavy machinery storages and repair workshops within one week."

"Aside from that, there is one premise built on private land. We are giving the owner the chance to fulfil the technical requirements such as zoning or planning permission," he said after inspecting the demolition of a workshop near Taman Garing on Dec 1.

Also present was state executive councillor for local government Ng

See Han.

On Nov 24, the authorities demolished two heavy machinery storages and repair workshops located just one metre away from Sungai Rawang.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Aminudin Shari had previously said six recycling factories along the banks of Sungai Rawang will be demolished.

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Solutions to water woes

A TOTAL of RM200 million has been allocated towards solving raw water pollution issues in Selangor.

A project which has commenced this year aims to reduce the risk of operational suspension of Phase 1, 2 and 3 Sungai Selangor and the Rantau Panjang Water Treatment Plants (WTP) as well as the Semenyih 1 and 2 WTP. It is expected to be completed within 18 months.



WATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS
RM200 M



Stricter laws in place

THE Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) Enactment 1999 has been amended to increase the penalty for polluting the state's water sources and as a deterrent to would-be offenders. The amendments to the law were approved in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 9 and now include a maximum fine of RM1 million and mandatory imprisonment.

Luas will also be enforcing the rule whereby the disposal of waste (effluent) will be based on the river's capacity in terms of total maximum daily load (TMDL). The measure is in line with Section 56 of the Luas 1999 Enactment and the polluters-pay principle.

Old pipes to go

WATER SOURCE DEVELOPMENT
RM579 M



RM579 million has been dedicated towards the replacement of old pipes in the Klang Valley from now until 2022.

A total of 303 hotspot areas covering 716 km in pipe-length have been identified for repair.

Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) has also targeted the completion of old pipe replacements by a ratio of 150km per year.

Between 2016 and 2019, a total of RM529 million have been spent on the repair works while for 2020 to 2022, the amount has increased to RM579 million.

The implementation of the project will stretch about 6,000km across Selangor, including Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, to achieve a non-revenue water (NRW) rate of 25 per cent within five years' time.

Other efforts for water supply projects include:

- The development of Labohan Dagang Phase 2 and the Sungai Rasau WTPs
- A RM40 million allocation for the Skim Air Darul-Ehsan (SADE)
- RM1 million of funds injected into the Friends of River (FoR) initiative