

LEMBAGA URUS AIR SELANGOR
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KERATAN AKHBAR

'Spare us the hardship, please'

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THE temporary shutdown of the Semenyih Water Treatment Plant (LRA Sungai Semenyih) on Tuesday brought back bad memories for many Klang Valley denizens.

Despite Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd's (Air Selangor) statement that water restoration was under way with expected completion by midnight on Friday, residents continued to fear a repeat of last year's incidents in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur which saw nine cases of water pollution in their rivers, resulting in eight major water disruptions.

The latest water supply disruption affected 323,623 households in five regions — Petaling (172 areas), Hulu Langat (54 areas), Sepang (194 areas), Putrajaya (23 areas) and Kuala Langat (20 areas).

Puchong resident and factory manager Dickson Chew, 45, was relieved when authorities announced that the water pollution had fallen to a safe level and operations at the Semenyih plant would resume.

"I am glad that they were able to resolve the problem in less than 24 hours. None of us want to be in the situation we faced last year."

He said his workplace had to shut down part of its operations because of the disruption but his home in Bandar Kinrara was not affected.

"We actually have water stored daily because we are so afraid after what happened last year," Chew said, adding that he hoped the authorities would make an example of the culprits behind the latest incident.

Taman Puncak Jalil resident Md Fariz Ibrahim, 37, said he was caught out by the announcement but was thankful the water supply was not badly disrupted like

Klang Valley folk fear latest pollution at Semenyih water treatment plant may see a repeat of last year's challenging incidents



A drone shot taken by the DOE surveillance team shows part of the area that was polluted at Sungai Semenyih at Batu 5, Semenyih.

in the past.

"My housemates and I were out working when the supply was disrupted, so there was nobody to store water.

"If the water supply had been out for a few days, we would have been forced to rely on the water tank."

Selangor state tourism, environment, green technology and Orang Asli affairs committee chairman Hee Loy Sian said drones deployed by Environment Department (DOE) did not detect any oil barrels which

could have potentially contaminated the water source.

He said early findings from water samples collected at Sungai Semenyih revealed the possibility of effluent discharge by irresponsible people, hence causing the shut-down of a water treatment plant.

"Based on an analysis released by Air Selangor, trichloromethane, acetic acid and benzene were among the chemicals found in the water samples taken from LRA Sungai Semenyih.

"Therefore joint inspections will

be carried out by the Selangor Water Management Board (LUAS), DOE and Kajang Municipal Council (MPK) at upstream premises that produce these effluents, to prevent a repeat of the problem," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Selangor MCA Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Ng Chok Sin took Selangor government to task over its inability to resolve the water woes plaguing the state.

"Faced with frequent pollution at its water sources leading to

"I am glad that Air Selangor was able to resolve the problem in less than 24 hours. None of us want to be in the situation we faced last year."

Dickson Chew

unscheduled water cuts, Selangor government should have explored other alternatives ages ago, including establishing an off-river storage system near its water treatment plants to filter and supply water whenever its river basins are polluted.

"Its plants could explore alternatives to traditional water sources, such as pumping groundwater, setting up coastal reservoirs and rain-water collection system."

He said it must also look beyond having only one management method to tackle its water crisis.

"It has to come up with alternatives beyond cutting off water supplies whenever a water source is contaminated.

"Otherwise, residents are at the mercy of having their daily lives disrupted whenever unscheduled water cuts hit," said Ng.

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