‘Cheaper to build water plant’

Better option: More cost-efficient than reducing non-revenue water, says ministry official

It is more cost efficient to build the Langat 2 water treatment plant than to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya said Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry water sector senior division secretary Sultanul Ahmad Bolkiah.

Sultanul said it would cost RM1.2 billion to reduce NRW from 32.3 per cent to 20.8 per cent, which would only provide an extra 500 million litres per day (MLD), compared with the total cost of the Pasir Gudang Kesas Rawa Water Transfer project, including the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

The water transfer project and Langat 2 would cost RM8.9 billion at 1,500 MLD in its first phase.

The Selangor government has maintained there was no need for the project to proceed if Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) managed to reduce NRW by 20 per cent as it would bear the capacity of treated water reserve to a more comfortable level.

Sultanul also addressed another reason given by the state government to oppose the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

“It is not cheaper to transfer water from Tasik Kenyir, rather than Sungai Pahang as the cost to just lay the pipes along more than 500km of the gas reserve pipeline, from Tasik Kenyir to Langat as suggested by the memori besar will cost RM1.3 billion.”

“This excludes the cost of pump stations and operational expenditures,” he said at a forum on Selangor water supply issues organised by the ministry here yesterday.

Meanwhile, Syabas revealed yesterday that it had to date sent “no less than 50 proposals and follow-up letters” to the Pahang and Kelantan state governments to avert the dreaded water crisis.

The last submission was made on June 7, Syabas chief operating officer Datuk Lee Miang Koh said.

He said Syabas had done its part to warn the state government of the impending water crisis.

Without any new project to increase water supply, water reserve would be in a deficit situation as early as next year.

Selangor Barisan Nasional co-ordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohd Hamid had recently said the water shortage was proof that BN was not fulfilling the water issue.

He had said it also proved that the figures on water supply were not concocted.

Mohd Zin had said when a Datuk Seri Mohd Hamid said the BN was fluctuating in water supply caused by the dry and hot weather, a shortage of treated water was bound to happen and that the authorities could not stress enough that the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant must proceed.

Look at the big picture, Selangor told

BN wants free water supply to benefit all

Langat 2 has to proceed and it is not to benefit any corporation.

The most important thing is that the people will have water supply.

The state government objected to the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant, he said at a forum on Selangor water supply issues at Grand Bluewave Hotel in Shah Alam yesterday.

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Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar answering questions after the forum on Selangor water supply issues at Grand Bluewave Hotel in Shah Alam yesterday.

Pic by Adib Rawi Yahya

Believe me when I say that whoever governs Selangor will not want to burden the people. If Barisan Nasional said afterwards, we will not burden the people, he said when met after the forum.

Noh said the state had little to mitigate the impending water crisis and its decision to block Langat 2 would inconvenience the people and affect Selangor’s investments, which, in turn, would affect development and the number of job opportunities to the state.

Langat 2 has to proceed and it is not to benefit any corporation.

The most important thing is that the people will have water supply.

Don’t politicise this issue.”

Earlier, in her opening speech at the forum, Deputy Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Noriah Kassim said the people of Selangor had not realised the gravity of the situation as most of them were still enjoying uninterrupted water supply.

“People residing in the Klang Valley, especially in Selangor.”

She said the Federal Government had spent RM100 million for mitigation efforts, including RM20 million to build the Sungai Labu treatment plant and RM80 million to maintain pipes in the state.

BN’s main concern was ensuring that the water supply was not interrupted.

“If we want to carry out the policy of giving free water, we must first have water.”

A free forum on the water issue with Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said it would be a waste of time and the debate would be cheap publicity for the state government and for benefit to the people.

He said the current situation is obviously indicated that water supply in the state was at a critical level.

BN wants free water supply to benefit all