Water crisis has already hit some in Klang Valley

LOW PRESSURE: Several residential areas facing disruptions in recent months

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THE water crisis in several parts of the Klang Valley is threatening to hit residents and the business community hard.

The New Straits Times spoke to several residents here who have been hit by or are bracing for water disruptions.

In other parts of Klang, there had been water disruptions in the past few months.

According to Bandar Botanic resident Marilyn Nedunchelian, 26, her housing area had been affected by several disruptions in the past six months because of low water pressure.

She said in April, there was a water disruption which lasted for two days. Water tankers were sent to her housing area.

"For sure, we have to receive any notice of water disruption. When I read about the proposed water rationing in the Klang Valley, it did not surprise me."

A resident from Bandar Parklands, Dr R. Theyveekan, 40, said there had been frequent water disruptions in her area.

She said the last water disruption was several weeks ago which lasted four days, forcing her family to go to a relative's house.

On Saturday, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) announced a proposal to ration water in Kuala Lumpur, Hulu Langat and Klang.

Syabas will present its plan to the National Water Services Commission next week.

Syabas chief executive officer Datuk Rukan Hasham had said the plan was necessary to resolve the water crisis affecting the three districts.

In Kapar, residents of Sri Sementa Empat flats have been experiencing water disruptions since Saturday.

Norah Tasmit, 52, said the disruption first occurred from 10am on Saturday to 3am yesterday, before supply was cut again about 4am yesterday. She said residents contacted Syabas, which sent several water tankers.

"When there is no water, it is impossible to cook or even take a shower. We had to go to Tarka Sungai Kapar Indah across the road to shower."

Another resident, who only wanted to be known as Meor, 29, said frequent water disruptions had been occurring since the beginning of the year.

"This happens at least once a month and lasts from one to three days. On Thursday, I noticed that the water supply had started to trickle, so I called Syabas to inform them of the low water pressure."

Syabas assistant general manager (corporate communications and public affairs) Priscilla Alfred said some areas in Kapar were suffering water cuts because of the low water level in the dam.

‘Selangor MB must justify claim’

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"We have to take into consideration the cost that the water conservation efforts, such as Syarikat Pengeluar Air Sungai Selangor Sdn Bhd and Puncak Niaga (M) Sdn Bhd, are bearing. At the end of the day, the water tariff must reflect the need at the time, and must recoup the costs of the industry for it to survive."

He was commenting on Khalid’s demand that the Federal Government put in writing the proposed post Langat 2 water tariff and also declare water facilities worth RM0.5 billion as state assets.

Khalid, last week, issued the ultimatum, saying the Federal Government needed to do it in writing and not just make verbal promises.

He had said the demands must first be met before both parties could even discuss about the Langat 2 treatment plant, which would ensure sustainable supply till 2030.

On Khalid’s second demand, that RM0.5 billion worth of water facilities be declared state assets, Chin said the Selangor government must justify its claim on these facilities.

"The water treatment plants were built with money that was loaned from the Federal Government. In short, it must first justify and quantify these facilities, which it claims belong to it."

"They cannot generally declare the figures and not fully state where the figures came from," he said, adding that these matters needed to be negotiated properly and not rushed back and forth.

He said his ministry would facilitate the meeting between Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) and the National Water Services Commission (Span) over water rationing in the Klang Valley.

"Syabas must get the approval from Span, so my ministry will facilitate this."

Nearly 250,000 households will be affected by the crisis as water reserves levels have dropped to two per cent, below the 10 per cent national safe level.

Negri folk need not worry about shortage, says MB

SEREMBAN: Residents of Negri Sembilan should not worry about the water crisis in neighbouring states as the supply is adequate until 2030.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Halim said the construction of the Titiang dam and a new water treatment plant in Jeleh would provide 246 million litres per day (midd) of surplus water.

"The projects, which cost RM3.2 billion, are slated for completion by year end, " he said.

Mohamad said to date, the Sungai Trip treatment plant here was able to produce 275 million of treated water against the demand of 265midd.

"There is a shortage of 35midd but when the Jelebu plant and the Titiang dam are operational, they can produce a surplus."

Mohamad was speaking after SJK (C) Chung Hua’s 95th anniversary celebration here yesterday.

The state government, he said, was ready to negotiate with neighbouring states if they wanted to buy surplus treated water.

He said the state government would also replace the old pipes in the state in stages.

"The cost of changing the old pipes may reach RM680 million."

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