Syabas: Selangor govt tied our hands

DOESN’T HOLD WATER: ‘We warned state about looming crisis as early as 2010’

Subramaniam said numerous notices have been sent to the Selangor government on the impending water crisis, adding that Syabas had informed the board of directors and state government representatives at nine board meetings since the end of 2010.

“The responsibility of providing sufficient infrastructure to process raw water fit for consumption lies with the Selangor government as stipulated in Article 1 in List 2, State List, item 6 (c) of the Federal Constitution.

“Syabas is only confined to distributing the treated water produced by the treatment operators appointed by the state government,” he said.

Subramaniam pointed out that the Selangor government’s failure to gazette a new tariff as stipulated in the concession agreement and instruction to freeze Syabas’s capital expenditure (capex) also contributed to the water crisis.

“The capex freeze rendered Syabas unable to perform works to reduce non-revenue water and hampered our initiatives to repair, upgrade and maintain water assets to increase its efficiency and provide the best service to the public.

“The failure to gazette the tariff review has resulted in Syabas incurring arrears to water treatment operators,” he said.

Warning that it was too late to conduct studies now when the residents of Selangor, Petropaya and Kuala Lumpur were facing water shortages, Subramaniam offered to sit down with the state government, the Federal Government and the National Water Services Commission (Span) to discuss how to solve the crisis.

State govt under fire over quit move by Latheefa

KUALA LUMPUR: The Selangor government has come under fire following yet another high-profile spat within Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

The administration of Mentari Beras Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim was heavily criticised by Wanita PKR chief Zuraida Kamaruddin over its decision to sack female leader Latheefa.

Zuraida, who is known to be from the same faction as Latheefa in the party, said the government had to be more open to criticism.

Zuraida also called for Latheefa to reconsider her resignation.

“Resignation should come as an expression of the state government’s true stance on the issue,” she said.

The administration of the state government has been accused of improperly handling the situation.

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Muhdyiddin: State govt to blame

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Therefore, Muhdyiddin said, the state government must bear responsibility for it, adding that uncertain weather conditions had caused the water supply to treatment plants to remain at a low level.

“What about the construction of the Langat 2 plant?”

We had submitted and discussed the proposal for a long time, but they did not make a decision.”

Earlier, in Shah Alam, Khalid said state water regulator Danuk Nordin Sulaiman had the power to override Syabas’s authority to grant development orders approvals to new projects and factories in Selangor.

He said Syabas had rejected the development order applications of some 60 manufacturers.

Khalid said the state government had also deregistered Syabas under the concession agreement, but it was welcomed by Syabas’s poor service.

He said he had written to Syabas and the Federal Government of the state government’s intended take over of the water company.

A resident of the Sereh Sementas 4 flats in Kapar collecting water from a Syabas tanker after a water supply disruption in the area on Sunday. Pic by Osman Adnan

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