Langat 2 must go on

**NO RATIONING:** Water woes causing anxiety among consumers, says DPM

ALANG BENDAHARA
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A CABINET committee dealing with the imminent water crisis in the Klang Valley said yesterday the delayed Langat 2 water treatment plant project must go ahead as the water supply situation is critical and causing anxiety among consumers.

Also, water concessionaire Sybas has been asked to come up with a contingency plan as the water treatment plants in Sungai Langat, Sungai Batu, Sungai Semenyih, Sungai Selangor and Bukit Tampoh were operating beyond their capacity and were at a risk of breaking down.

The committee's meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, also decided that there was no need for water rationing in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

On Langat 2, Muhyiddin said the attorney-general had been asked to look at legal provisions to start the project should the Selangor government disagree with the plan to build it.

"Ideally, we are looking to start the project this year so that it can be completed by 2018," he said.

He said the Selangor government should give the go-ahead as soon as possible so that construction could begin.

The government would prepare, in a month’s time, the offer to several companies to build the plant.

Muhyiddin said: "We want to make sure there will be companies ready to start work as soon as the Selangor government gives permission and for the project to be completed in 36 years."

He said the committee decided that Langat 2 was the only solution to the water crisis, which was expected to hit Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya by 2014.

**Pas: Karpal wrong on us giving up hudud**

SYED UMAR ARIFF

JOHOR BARU: A Pas Syura council member has told DAP chairman Karpal Singh that he got it wrong about Pas abandoning its aspirations to implement hudud in the country.

Datuk Dr Mahfizuddin Mohamed, who is also Johor Pas commissioner, said having Islamic laws and setting up an Islamic state were high on Pas' agenda.

"Although it was decided during the last (Pas) mukazam that the party will now carry on with its welfare state manifesto, Karpal should remember what Pas is all about and what we stand for."
Selangor may hold ‘water’ referendum

RESTRUCTURING: It wants people to decide on takeover of Syabas.

The Selangor government is going ahead with its planned takeover of the water operations from concessionaire Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd, state executive councillor Dr Xavier Jayakumar said yesterday.

He proposed a “referendum of the people”, where the people of Selangor would decide.

“We are prepared to hold the referendum where the rakyat can vote to agree or reject the intention of the Selangor government to take over Syabas,” he said after visiting the Sungai Semenyih water treatment plant.

The plant, owned and run by Abbas (Konsortium Abbas Sdn Bhd is 50 per cent owned by Kumpulan Perangang Selangor Bhd of the Selangor government), has the capacity to produce 546 MLD (million litres per day) but is currently producing 665 MLD. Jayakumar said the state government had requested RM228 million from the Federal Government to carry out water mitigation projects through the State Economic Planning Unit, but the approval was still pending.

The funds are to upgrade two water treatment plants, the Sungai Selangor Plant 1 and Sungai Selangor Plant 2, as they are running below their maximum capacity output because of infrastructure limitations to channel treated water out to the water supply network, he said.

“The Selangor government is prepared to spend its own funds to fulfill these mitigation projects, which are actually the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure that the people of Selangor have enough water,” Jayakumar said. He said the state government was prepared to spend an additional RM300 million to upgrade membrane technology to supply treated water without disruption to the present supply.

He said the state water industry restructuring exercise should proceed immediately as Syabas, according to him, had failed to provide good service to consumers.

Earlier, about 100 Pakatan Rakyat supporters gathered in front of Syabas’ office in Shah Alam to express support for the state government’s planned takeover of the concessionaire.

Syabas told to ensure enough water supply

“Today, the committee discussed and felt that the Langat 2 project must be continued.”

He said one of the issues standing in the way of the takeover was the state government’s failure to compensate Syabas after refusing a scheduled increase in the water tariff.

“The matter is pending in court as Syabas is suing Selangor.”

On the situation on the ground, he said there had been complaints of water disruptions in several parts of the city and Selangor. Five areas, with 50,000 accounts with Syabas, have unsatisfactory water supply.

Syabas has been instructed to ensure enough water supply to all areas, including Pandan Indah, Pandan Perdana, Bukit Kuning, Kapar and Hulu Langat.