Union members protest Selangor’s bid for Syabas

SHAH ALAM: Some 100 members from the Selangor Water Management Corporation Workers’ Union (KPPUAS) protested against the state government’s intended takeover of Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas).

Led by president Abdul Aziz Ali, they protested for nearly an hour before handing over a memorandum to Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim.

Aziz said among the demands were for the state government to stop politicising the water issue and blaming Syabas.

“Syabas’ management has taken good care of our welfare. We doubt the state government can do the same. The state government should instead allow the Langat 2 project to go ahead,” Aziz told reporters after the protest.

He said Syabas was working on improving the quality of water services and the takeover would only disrupt their work.

Later, after chairing the state executive council meeting, Khalid said all applications on Langat 2 must be referred to the menteri besar.

He said the directive applied to all government departments, local authorities and relevant agencies.

“We do not want to interfere with the Federal Government’s plan, but matters that require state approval must be forwarded to the menteri besar.”

Khalid said the “step-in” document for the intended takeover of Syabas was ready and officers from Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad, who would manage the takeover, are qualified to handle the matter.

He said the state water monitoring committee, headed by state secretary Datuk Mohamad Khusrin Musawi, found that Syabas was operating under capacity.

“The committee also discovered the production capacity of 34 plants was 4,807 million litres per day (MLD) compared with Syabas’ distribution capacity of 4,371 MLD.

“There is a surplus of 436 MLD. The state’s first mitigation project is expected to be completed in March next year and this will boost production by another 332 MLD.”

Ministry collecting feedback on Langat 2

PUTRAJAYA: The Energy, Water and Green Technology Ministry is compiling feedback from users and stakeholders on the proposed Langat 2 water treatment plant for submission to the Special Cabinet Committee on the Selangor Water Issue.

The committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, will meet in two weeks.

The committee last met on Monday, after which Muhyiddin announced it would go ahead with the project, even if the state government did not agree to it.

Chin said he had asked the Water Asset Management Company and Water Supply Department to prepare the documentation for the tender.

He said Muhyiddin was expected to release a statement to clarify certain issues concerning the water crisis in “two or three days”.

He said a referendum regarding the water issue, as proposed by the Selangor government, was a ploy to shift attention from the need to build Langat 2.

“If they (Selangor government) want to do it, then let them do it. It is their prerogative.”

He dismissed an online news report claiming seven sites in Peninsular Malaysia had been shortlisted by the government to build nuclear power plants.