Don’t deceive, MB told

Zin: Khalid should take responsibility over water crisis instead

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KUALA LUMPUR: The water level at all 34 treatment plants in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya are at a critical stage and the Selangor Mentri Besar should not claim there is sufficient water supply, said state Barisan National coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed.

He added that Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim should take responsibility over the matter and not deceive the people.

Mohd Zin said the state government had failed to act despite being warned many times on the impending water crisis.

"The water levels at all 34 treatment plants are at critical levels. So, he (Khalid) should not deviate from the core issue and deceive the people of Selangor by saying that there is sufficient water supply," he said yesterday.

Citing complaints received by Rakar, the state Barisan service centre hotline, Mohd Zin said almost 30% of them concerned the issue of water.

"We are having a headache because of the state government. The people are already suffering in several locations here.

"For example, elderly folk complained about how difficult it was for them to carry pails of water up their flats. Khalid’s inaction on the matter is affecting the rakyat. He should stop blaming (concessionaire) Syabas or the Federal Government and take immediate action to resolve the water crisis. Because of his inaction, the people are going to suffer," he said.

Meanwhile, in PETALING JAYA, the Selangor government has been told to "hold its horses" and to discard its discussion table.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kooi said there was a joint committee on supply restructuring which the state could use as a platform to resolve water woes.

This, he added, would be more effective than the state government "jumping in" to take over the water concessionaire’s operations.

Rais: Celebrate Merdeka Day as one

KUALA LUMPUR: Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim has urged all Malaysians to discard their political differences and ideology to celebrate the country’s Merdeka Day together.

"What is wrong in putting aside political differences temporarily to celebrate our Merdeka Day as Malaysians. Once the celebrations are over, politics can continue," he said after visiting the Kilah Jalar Gemilang site in Little India, Brickfields here last night.

Dr Rais said by joining in the celebrations, it would clearly show the world that all Malaysians are united under the sovereignty of the Kelah Jalar Gemilang although their political ideology may differ.

He also said all states are expected to join in the 55th Merdeka Day celebration themed "55 Years of Independence Promises Fulfilled" according to the programmes listed up in their respective states.

Dr Rais said the Kilah Jalar Gemilang (KJG) this year would be launched at three locations simultaneously.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will launch the programme in Little India, while Tan Sri Musshaidin Yassin and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Tuanku Aziz will launch it in Kampung Baru and Petaling Street respectively. The three locations represent the three main races in the country: namely the Indian community in Brickfields, Petaling Street (Chinese) and Kampung Baru (Malays)."

Dr Rais said thousands of Malaysians from all walks of life were expected to take part in the launch while the Kilah Jalar Gemilang campaign would continue until Aug 31, according to the statement.

State govt wants to take over Syabas ops

By TEH ENG HOCK
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SHAH ALAM: The state government is looking into the possibility of taking over Syabas ops (concessionaire Syabas after the company annulled its intention to seek permission for its aging raffle in Selangor).

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim in a statement 32 of the concession agreement to the state government to step in to operations now undertaken by Syabas as it would need the approval of the Government.

"It is doubtful that there is a real war in Selangor as the state water regulator, Syabas, board of directors have not been informed of the proposal to start talks," he said here.

"We will write to the Federal Government and SPAN (the National Water Commission) for their approval of the proposal. If the Federal Government reject the request, the state might consider taking it over," Khalid added.

He said state secretary Datuk Munawwi, the state water regulator’s board would form a core monitor the operations of Syabas and if the proposal was made public, "Syabas will call independent experts to have an understanding of the request. After that, the state assembly" he said, adding the people would also do the same in the monitoring.

Khalid said that the present was different from the water crisis in the seven dams in Selangor were no capacity.

Khalid said the state water industry operating exercise would soon be an asset to Syabas if it had failed to provide good service and consumers.

On the same day, Syabas chief executive Datuk Ruslan Hassan said the company seeking permission from SPAN for the Raffles container in Kuala Lumpur, that had eaten into reserve levels in 34 treatment plants down to an all-time low of 16% was being marked at the moment.

It listed 112 areas in Klang, Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur while they took 120 intermittent disruptions with geological problems and weather problems.

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