156 development projects on hold in Selangor

How raw water is treated

Stage 1:
Raw water is collected

Stage 2:
Raw water is processed to become treated water. The water crisis happens at this stage

Stage 3:
Sybas distributes water to consumers

What creates water shortage

- When water is released from the dams into the rivers to be channelled to treatment plants, it is possible that some of this water is already diverted and stolen.
- When raw water is very dirty, more chemicals are used and the cost is also higher.
- Environmental degradation affects volume and quality of water that is channelled for treatment and this affects the amount of water that can be treated.
- Discharge of affluent and toxins into rivers makes it difficult for the raw water to be treated for consumption due to the high levels of pollutants.
- Declining quality of ground water due to contamination from agricultural, urban and industrial activities.
- Uncertainty of weather such as prolonged drought makes the water in the dams and river basins low.
- High demand from industrial and residential areas which the treatment plants cannot meet.

PETALING JAYA: A total of 156 development projects in Selangor have to be put on hold as Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Sybas) claims that it does not have the capacity to provide treated water, Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) councillors said.

MPKJ councillor Lee Kee Hiong said Sybas had pointed out that the approval for these projects had to be put on hold as there was insufficient treated water for the people of Selangor, Federal Territories and Putrajaya.

"Sybas noted that the state has yet to approve the Langat 2 water treatment plant project. This is not a valid excuse," he said.

The approval of certain bodies, such as Sybas, is needed for issuing planning approvals for development projects.

Lee was handing over a letter to Hulu Langat Sybas in support of Selangor Mentri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim’s plan to take over the management of Sybas. With her were nine other MPKJ councillors and three representatives from residents’ associations.

“Langat 2 will take at least two years to build and is to be used to process raw water from Pahang. Why do we need to process raw water from Pahang when we have enough in Selangor?” asked Lee.

Fellow councillor Eddie Ng said the postponement of issuing the approvals was a threat to the development of Selangor.

“In Selesa Jaya and Cheras Jaya, there is water disruption about thrice a week. There are factory operators who estimated their loss totalling more than RM10,000 per day due to the water disruptions.

“We urge Sybas to not politicise the issue.”