Water woes to worsen without Langat 2 plant

WARNING: Crisis shows BN not politicising issue

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The current water shortage in parts of Selangor is a prelude to what is to come if the Pakatan Rakyat-led state government continues to obstruct the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

Selangor Barisan Nasional coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed said the water shortage proved that BN was not politicising the water issue. He said it also proved that the figures given on the critical level of water reserve were not concocted.

"We have said time and again that the water reserve at the treatment plant is at the critical level of 24 per cent. "When there is fluctuation in water supply caused by the dry and hot weather, a shortage of treated water is bound to happen. This is why we could not stress enough that the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant has to proceed."

He was commenting on the shortage of water supply in Petaling, Hulu Langat and Sepang following the drop in water levels at the Semenyih and Langat Balancing Reservoirs over the past two days.

Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) said the drop in the water levels was because of the increase in demand and that the company was prepared to deploy 42 water tankers to the affected areas.

Zin said water shortages would happen unless the state government increased the treated water reserve to the industry's standard of 20 per cent, or a more comfortable buffer of 10 per cent.

"It is important to have an adequate buffer to cushion any supply fluctuation during hot spells."

He said despite the many suggestions by the state government, including drawing groundwater, the state had failed to prepare a mitigation plan for short-term water shortages and ensure adequate supply of treated water in Selangor.

He added that the Selangor government should focus more on efforts to ensure adequate water supply rather than on the restructuring of the water industry.

"Some of the state's 33 water treatment plants are working at maximum capacity while a few are overloaded."

In the city, the affected areas are Taman Maluri, Taman Angsana Hilir, Kampung Pan- dan, Taman Sekar and Taman Taynton View.

In Hulu Langat, the areas are Sungai Besi Indah, Bukit Berlimbing, Juru Jaya, Sajana Impian, Beranang, Bukit Semenyih, Sungai Tekali, Selesa Jaya, Taman Ujana, Alam Jaya, Balakong, PKNS Beranang and Kampung Baru Semenyih.

In Petaling, the affected areas are Jalan Klang Lama, Sri Petaling, Desa Petaling and most of Section S2, Petaling Jaya, while in Sepang, the affected area is Titi Serdang.

More information can be obtained by contacting Syabas’ hotline 1-800-88-5252 or sending a text message to 39222.

Experts have said Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya would face major water crises by 2014 if the construction of Langat 2 water treatment plant was delayed.

The plant is part of the Pahang-Selangor raw water transfer project that will treat 1.89 billion litres of raw water to be channelled to Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya until 2025.