There is no shortage of water in Selangor, says Luas

KLANG: The Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) has denied reports that the state is facing a water shortage.

Luas director Md Khairi Selamat said the water levels at the Semenyih and Langat dams that were currently supplying water to households in Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, Hulu Langat and Sepang were overflowing.

"We have an abundance of water in both dams. The issue here is how the treatment plants are managed. But even that is not causing any water shortage at the moment," he said.

Asked if the current dry spell could cause a shortage in treated water, Md Khairi said it was possible but not under the current circumstances.

Selangor executive councillor Dr Xavier Jayakumar, meanwhile, challenged Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas), to show its findings, which suggested a possible water shortage in the state.

"Where is the (water) shortage? Show us the readings at these dams. They should not issue statements that will frighten the people without studying the exact situation," he said. Dr Xavier claimed that the statement by Syabas' corporate affairs executive director Abdul Halem Mat Som was issued just to push for the completion of the Langat 2 water treatment plant project.

"They make such announcements so that the people will feel that there is a need for the Langat 2 project but studies have shown that the multi-billion project is not needed to ensure constant supply of water in Selangor," he said.

On Sunday, Syabas said it had detected drastically lower levels of treated water in the state's "balancing reservoirs".

Balancing reservoirs are the main dams where treated water is channelled into.

The notably low levels in the Semenyih and Langat balancing reservoirs and increased demand for water due to the current dry spell could result in cuts to the water supply for areas such as Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, Hulu Langat and Sepang.

Syabas has also been notified that the output of treated water in all 33 treatment plants in the state on Saturday was at the highest at 4,405 mld (million litres a day) although the plants are designed to produce only 4,371 mld.

Abdul Halem said the dry and hot weather was expected to last until September and urged consumers to use water wisely.

"We also hope that consumers do not pollute the rivers so that clean water can be supplied continuously," he added.