Folk happy to go with unexpected flow

NO DAMPER: Those braced for a dry 48 hours are pleasantly surprised to find their taps still running on the first day of scheduled water cuts

THE water continued to flow yesterday in homes and commercial premises in parts of Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya, where disruptions were expected because of maintenance and upgrading works at the Sungai Selangor water treatment plant.

About 1 million consumers in 153 areas including Gombak, Petaling and Hulu Selangor were expected to face water cuts yesterday and today.

As of press time, the taps were still running in several residential and business areas, although many had stored water for later use.

In PJ, food sellers in the Section 14 market said they would close early if water supply was cut.

"It would be difficult to operate without water. I usually close at 7pm but if water supply is disrupted by this afternoon, I might close after lunch," said a Chinese economy rice seller.

A drink seller, who did not wish to be named, said she had stored enough water to see her through the water cut.

Office lots and residential areas here also still had access to water.

Taman Megah, Damansara Kim and Kelana Jaya residents were also doing fine.

"We still have water running from our taps," said Francis Lee from Taman Megah.

Another resident said the family would dine out if the water was cut.

"I will not have to worry about washing the dishes then," said the mother of two.

Checks at Seri Setia market in Sungai Way showed business as usual.

Butcher Chino was happy to see the taps still running.

"We will continue to store water should the taps run dry soon," he added.

The market opens from early morning until about 11am.

A few stalls at the market’s food court and along Jalan SS9A/1 were closed due to the water cut announcement.

The water tankers will only be deployed for emergencies and at the request of residents during the two-day water cut.

Syrakat Bekalan Air Selangor’s corporate affairs director, Abdul Halim Mat Som said calls for water were expected after the first 24 hours of the water cut.

"Most would have already stored water and their water tank should have sufficient supply. So we don’t foresee any immediate calls for water," he said.

Halim said 42 water tankers were on standby for the full duration of the water cut.

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At SS2, Beautiful Gate Foundation for the Disabled executive director, Sia Swee Leen said the water tanks had yet to happen at the home.

"We have a water tank next to the house. That water can be used by our 40 residents."

"The stored water will not be enough for everyone for two days, though. We will need to be thrifty with it," she added.