Storing up for nothing?

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Was it a false alarm or misinformation? Residents fear of a massive water disruption in Selangor yesterday did not materialise as taps in most areas did not actually run dry.

However, the scenario may be different today as taps were expected to dry up as the water from 15 reservoirs were reduced to nothing by late yesterday evening.

Syabas said the situation was expected to be back to normal by 8pm tonight.

Its corporate affairs executive director Abdul Hakeem Mat Som said the water disruption could not take place at one go for the whole of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

He said the disruption would take place gradually since the 15 reservoirs that supply water to homes in Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam, Kuala Langat and Kuala Selangor districts would dry depending on the usage.

“As of 11.30am today, only 20% of the water from the reservoirs dries up.

“Water level will continue to go down since no supply is being channelled into the reservoirs,” he said.

Consumers, he said, faced water disruptions from yesterday evening upon returning home from work.

Hamean said they expected the situation to be back to normal by 8pm today when the reservoirs get their water supply from the treatment plant.

As part of its contingency plan, he said, they had allocated 45 water tankers in areas that were in critical need.

“I believe that consumers are well prepared by storing enough water to face the situation since we have given them prior notice,” he said.

Hamean said the water disruption was caused by the ongoing maintenance work at the Sungai Air Sujana, 50mn Bhd treatment plant.

He said the sluice valve of the plant was being replaced.

Checks by StarMetro revealed that most people were prepared to face the situation and the public had been storing water in drums. In Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam, retiree Stephen M and housewife Ann Vivian Hodges had stored up basins of water and they even have a 50-litre drum inside the house to store up water.

Stephen, 61, said there were still frequent water disruption in their area - at least twice a month. So, we stored up water in this drum so as not to go dry when there is a water disruption.

The water stored in the drum was for drinking and bathing.

“We think it might be enough for the entire family during the two-day water disruption,” said Stephen, who has been staying in Taman Sri Muda for the last 26 years.

Ann, 56, said she told her family not to eat in the restaurants for the next two days fearing that the restaurants might use other source of water supply for cooking.

“In fact, our area is not affected by the water cut. There is still water from the pipes but this storage is just as a precaution,” she said.

Another resident Fahirah Mohd Sulaiman, 36, who stays in Aman Perdana, Klang, had also stored up water for the situation.

His only fear was that the water stored may last only for a day.

“If we do not have enough water, then we could ration by using the water sparingly when taking a bath. However, water still flows from the pipes and I am glad that there is water,” he said.