Selangor govt's stance on water project slammed

SHAH ALAM: The Pakatan-led Selangor government should stop being selfish by withholding approval for the Langat 2 water treatment project.

Saying this yesterday, Selangor Barisan Nasional coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamad said the state's water reserve was now at a critical level of 2.4 per cent (of the total distribution capacity for the state), far below the ideal level of 20 per cent.

He said this suggested that the threat of a water crisis in the Klang Valley by 2014 was very real if there was no concerted effort to source raw water from outside the region.

The proposed Langat 2 water treatment plant is part of the Pahang-Selangor Raw Water Transfer project that will treat 1.89 billion litres of raw water to be channeled to Selangor and the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya until 2025.

"Pakatan is being selfish for exposing the people to the threat of water crisis," Zin told a press conference here. "They are scared that the BN will gain political mileage from this project and they are willing to use mine water if the water problem in Selangor continues."

The Selangor government had in the past insisted on resolving all issues concerning water before approving the water transfer project.

Recently, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said the state was in no rush to proceed with the water transfer project as it was cheaper to link pipes from dams in Peninsular Malaysia rather than building a new dam and digging a tunnel to transfer water from Pahang to the state. On this, Zin said the need to transfer raw water from Pahang was because it involved the most competitive cost.

"The water issue is so serious that 129 factories with an investment value of RM3.8 billion, with a potential to generate 12,300 jobs, could not be set up here."