Khalid’s dam idea wrong

SELANGOR WATER WOES: Malaysian Water Association says linking dams with pipes costly through the main range. Chin said the failure to build the plant, which had been delayed by 15 months, had been attributed to the refusal of the Selangor government to approve the development order and other approvals for the implementation of the project.

"We will face an acute water shortage if no action is taken now," Even if Selangor gave the approval soon, Chin said it would take five years to complete the project.

He said it was not just the plant, but also other works, such as recirculation pipes and others that were away from the plant site. Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim claimed that the low level of water reserves in the state would not be an issue if Syabas (state water concessionaire Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor) reduced water loss.

Responding to comments that the state’s water reserve was at a critical level of 24 per cent, he said the data was distributed by the state, Khalid said non-revenue water (NRW) in the state was about 30 per cent.

"If you save at least 10 per cent of NRW, then the 24 per cent figure becomes irrelevant," Khalid said after launching the state-level World Museum Day here yesterday.

He said this in response to a statement from Selangor Barisan Nasional coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed, who claimed the state would face a water crisis given its critical level of reserves.

On Monday, Zin said the threat of a water crisis in the Klang Valley by 2034 was real if there was no effort to source raw water from outside the region.

Water reserve levels critical

I am worried that the Selangor water reserve is just 2.4 per cent which is way below the ideal level of 20 per cent. The state government should not blame others and politicise the issue. The looming water crisis calls for immediate action. The people of Selangor will suffer because of Pakatan Rakyat’s political decision.

Zuraidah Abdul
administration officer

dams with pipes rather than building a new dam to transfer water from Pahang to Selangor. In the statement issued yesterday, MWA said the option of linking dams with pipes would incur higher costs in the form of land acquisition, road crossings and road reinstatement works.

Linking of dams with pipes will require pumping due to level differences and adverse topographical features. "This will result in high energy cost which is unsustainable in the long run," it said that linking dams with pipes would take a longer timeframe to implement and require more manpower as compared with building Langat 2. It also said the construction of Langat 2 should be given top priority as there was limited water capacity to meet the increasing demand for potable water in the state. The MWA stressed that Khalid should recognise the building of Langat 2 and the Selangor water restructurings are two different matters.

It said the former needed to be executed immediately as the Klang Valley would be in a "definite state of water crisis should the project be further delayed".

MWA president Ahmad Zahdi Jamil added that the Klang Valley was an economically thriving area and that water supply was a lifeline that could not be gambled with. He urged the state to proceed with the Langat 2 project while the water restructuring discussions take place," he said.

Landslide kills man, injures 2

SMH RIVER: A Telekom Malaysia Bhd sub-contractor was buried alive in a landslide at Jalan Enggang, Felida Besaut 2 here yesterday afternoon.

Another two workers were pulled to safety when a landslide buried them while they were replacing the faulty telecommunication wiring. The死者 was identified as Mohd Nor Fizri Musa, 25, the injured are Nazril Muhammad Shaari, 25, and Mohd Shahrul Zaini Mohd Ismail, 24. All of them are from Tapah.

Both Nazril Muhammad and Shahrul Zaini were pulled to safety minutes after the earth fell on them. They were buried up to their chests in the landslide.

They were on their way to the Besaut health clinic for outpatient treatment.

Nor Fizri’s body was retrieved an hour later.

A witness, Mohd Nazmil Ismail, 22, said the incident happened in a blink of an eye. "I heard a loud noise followed by cries for help," Nazmil said within minutes, near by villagers and passers-by, came to their aid.

"What is sad is that we were unable to rescue the third victim." He was buried deep in the soil with a huge rock on top of him.

According to Telekom Malaysia Bhd technician Abdul Jaffal Abdullah, who was supervising works at the site, the incident happened within seconds after the trio entered the two-storey deep hole dug earlier.

"It happened so fast ... they got in to the hole to replace the faulty wiring and within seconds, the earth came crashing down on them.

Nor Fizri’s family members turned up at Slim River Hospital’s mortuary to claim his remains.

His mother Zahrarah Yob, 60, said her son had not been himself for the past three days. The second last of nine siblings, Nor Fizri was said to be a very hardworking, responsible and obedient person.

Tanjung Malim district police chief Superintendent Osman Nayan said the incident happened when the three workers were burying the wires after replacing them.

He said Nor Fizri died on arrival at the clinic following serious head injuries.