Japanese firm vies for Langat 2

PUTRAJAYA: A Japanese firm is among several international companies vying to construct the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui said this was because 75 per cent of the loan for Langat 2 came from Japan.

However, he said, the cabinet committee looking into the project would only meet tomorrow to decide whether to open bidding for the tender to foreign companies.

“The allegation that the project was proposed with the aim to ensure Umno-Barisan Nasional (BN) cronies would get the contract is baseless,” he said, referring to claims by the opposition last month that Umno members were “getting lots of contracts” from the water transfer project from Pahang to Selangor.

Chin said this before breaking fast with his staff and 56 orphans here yesterday.

To overcome the imminent water crisis in the Klang Valley, the government will ensure the RM3.744 billion Langat 2 project goes through an open tender system for suitable qualified companies.

Chin said the Pahang water transfer project was half completed.

“This RM2.461 billion project was also approved through open tender.”

The Federal Government has been consistent in its stand that there will be a crisis in 2014 as the Selangor government has refused to approve the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant.

Chin said Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim was wrong in insisting that the 34 plants in the state could produce a total of 4.809 million litres of treated water per day.

“The design capacity for all 34 plants can only manage 4.881 million litres per day. So, where did Khalid get the figures from?”

In Kuala Lumpur, Gerakan Prihatin Rakyat Selangor chairman Datuk Sohaimi Shahadan yesterday lambasted the Selangor government for dragging its feet over the water problem.

“So many realise Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) only distributes treated water and the responsibility to provide infrastructure to facilitate the process lies with the state government.”

“What is happening today (water crisis) is because the state government failed to do its job,” he said after distributing 500 plastic drums of water to flat dwellers of Taman Putra Budiman in Balakong.

Their water supply had been disrupted for the past week. Six Syabas water tankers were on standby.

Sohaimi urged the people of Selangor to unite and ask the state government to expedite the construction of Langat 2.

He would visit the Langat treatment plant tomorrow, along with village heads of several affected areas, to get the real picture.

Resident Azizah Abu Bakar said it was difficult for residents to fetch water delivered by lorries up the five-storey flat, which does not have a lift.

BESTARI JAYA: The Selangor government has contracted the services of an international accounting firm to audit the state government's takeover of Talam Corporation's RM392 million debt.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said the Parti Keadilan Rakyat-led state government paid the unnamed company RM500,000 to conduct research and produce a report that could be understood by all levels of society.

He was commenting on questions raised by political parties and non-governmental organisation leaders who wondered why the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS), which was established to help the poor, had to take on Talam Corp's debts.

When asked to reveal the firm's name, Khalid declined, stating that it was the firm's request to be anonymous at the moment.

"The firm asked me not to reveal its name before the report is complete. It does not want to be bombarded with questions from all quarters as this will affect its work," he said after presenting contributions to 486 senior citizens, single mothers and the disabled, here, yesterday.

The report is expected to be complete by the end of next month.

Earlier this month, MCA Young Professionals Bureau chief Datuk Chua Tse Yong accused the Selangor government of misusing public funds to bail out Talam Corp.

Chua alleged that the state government had done so via a RM392 million supplementary budget passed in the state's legislative assembly in 2009.

He added that the state bought an additional RM676 million worth of assets from Talam Corp.

It was revealed that the company owed state subsidiaries Universiti Selangor (RM249 million), KHSV (RM15 million) and Remodalan Negeri Selangor Bhd (RM28 million), totalling RM392 million.