PEJABAT SETIAUSAHA KERAJAAN NEGERI SELANGOR

KERATAN AKHBAR
26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

DISEDIAKAN OLEH :

SEKSYEN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	CEMAR BEKALAN AIR DIHUKUM MATI
MUKA SURAT	1

CEMAR BEKALAN AIR DIHUKUM MATI

2

Menteri Air, Tanah dan Sumber Asli, Dr Xavier Jayakumar menegaskan, sesiapa yang didapati bersalah mencemarkan sistem bekalan air di negara ini dengan sengaja berdepan hukuman amat berat termasuk dihukum gantung sampai mati

“Ia termaktub dalam Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 di bawah bidang kuasa Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN).” - Kata Dr. Xavier pada sidang media selepas merasmikan Projek Air Bersih Etiqa di Kuala Lumpur semalam

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AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	PESALAH CEMAR AIR BOLEH DIHUKUM MATI
MUKA SURAT	2

Pesalah cemar air boleh dihukum mati

Hukuman tersebut termaktub dalam Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006

NOOR AINULYAKIN ISHAK

KUALA LUMPUR

FOTO: ROSLI TALIB

Xavier (dua dari kanan) bersama Pengarah Urusan dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, Faizal Othman (kanan) dan Timbalan Presiden Persatuan Air Malaysia, Mohmad Asari Daud (dua dari kanan) melihat replika loji air di Kuala Lumpur semalam.

Menteri Air, Tanah dan Sumber Asli, Dr Xavier Jayakumar menegaskan hukuman berat termasuk hukuman mati boleh dikenakan ke atas sesiapa yang didapati bersalah mencemarkan sistem bekalan air dengan sengaja.

Menurutnya, ia termaktub dalam Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 di bawah bidang kuasa Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN).

"Kita mempunyai akta yang cukup ketat sehingga kita boleh mengenakan hukuman mati kepada mereka yang mencemarkan air dengan sengaja atau kemungkinan besar mendatangkan kemudaratan (kepada pengguna).

"Kita boleh menggunakan akta itu dan tidak perlukan lagi sebarang pindaan atau penambahbaikan undang-undang," katanya pada sidang media selepas merasmikan Projek Air Bersih Etiqa di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditanya sama ada kementeriannya bercadang menambah baik undang-undang sedia ada bagi mengekang kegiatan pencemaran air susulan pencemaran Sungai Selangor disebabkan minyak diesel yang dipercayai akibat perbuatan khianat.

Dalam pada itu, Xavier berkata, siasatan berhubung pencemaran Sungai Selangor diserahkan sepenuhnya kepada polis dan berharap mereka yang terlibat dibawa ke mahkamah.

Sebelum ini, Xavier mengesahkan insiden pencemaran Sungai Selangor sehingga menjejaskan bekalan air terawat kepada pengguna di negeri itu dipercayai akibat perbuatan khianat.

Susulan itu, Ketua Polis Negara, Datuk Seri Abdul Hamid Bador berkata, mana-mana individu yang terlibat melakukan sabotaj sehingga menyebabkan pencemaran minyak di Sungai Selangor boleh dikenakan tindakan di bawah prosedur Akta Kesalahan Keselamatan (Langkah-Langkah Khas) 2012 (Sosma).

Seksyen 121 Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 memperuntukkan mereka yang didapati bersalah mencemarkan sistem bekalan air sehingga menyebabkan kematian manusia boleh dikenakan hukuman mati atau penjara sehingga 20 tahun dan sebatan.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	HUKUMAN MATI TIDAK BERCANGGAH DENGAN MANIFESTO PH
MUKA SURAT	2

Hukuman mati tidak bercanggah dengan manifesto PH

SHAH ALAM - Hukuman mati kepada mana-mana pesalah yang didapati mencemar bekalan air dengan sengaja sehingga menyebabkan kematian manusia dilihat tidak bercanggah dengan manifesto Pakatan Harapan (PH) sekiranya ia dilaksanakan.

Peguam dan pakar undang-undang, Syahredzan Johan berkata, berdasarkan buku manifesto PH, pihak berkenaan berjanji memansuhkan hukuman mati mandatori dan bukannya hukuman mati secara keseluruhan.

"Seksyen 121 Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 tidak memperuntukkan hukuman mati mandatori maka masih ada budi bicara pada hakim sama ada untuk kenakan hukuman mati atau tidak.

"Maka dari perspektif itu, ulasan menteri tidak bercanggah dengan prinsip dan manifesto PH," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	MB SERAH POLIS SIASAT ISU PENCEMARAN DIESEL
MUKA SURAT	2

MB serah polis siasat isu pencemaran diesel

SABAK BERNAM - Kerajaan negeri menyerahkan sepenuhnya siasatan kepada pihak polis berhubung kes pencemaran minyak diesel Sungai Selangor termasuk dakwaan membabitkan tiga pemancing pada 21 Julai lalu.

Menteri Besar Selangor, Amirudin Shari berkata, siasatan yang dibuat polis itu berdasarkan daripada laporan pemancing.

"Polis panggil pemancing tersebut untuk membantu siasatan. Bagaimanapun, belum tentu mereka adalah suspek terlibat," katanya.

Terdahulu, Amirudin merasmikan Program Selangkah ke Universiti anjuran Yayasan Pelajaran Mara di Dewan Seri Bernam, Sungai Besar semalam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, pontun pengorekan dan penyedutan pasir berada di kawasan sungai terbabit tidak mengalami sebarang masalah sebaliknya saluran yang ditarik keluar menyebabkan berlakunya pencemaran.

"Selepas ini, kita telah arahkan mana-mana pontun yang tidak digunakan dibawa keluar dari sungai agar perkara sama tidak berulang kembali.

"Malah, kita juga mencadangkan Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd (KSSB) yang melaksanakan kerja-kerja pengorekan pasir dengan teknologi lain sekiranya ada," katanya.

Sementara itu, mengulas lanjut isu pencemaran sisa kumbahan ladang khinzir yang berlaku di Sungai Sepang Besar, Bagan Lalang, Sepang, Amirudin menegaskan, ia merupakan perkara lama yang telah tertangguh dan berada dalam senarai tindakan kerajaan negeri.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	PENGUSAHA DAN PEKERJA PONTUN DITAHAN
MUKA SURAT	2

Pengusaha dan pekerja pontun ditahan

PENCEMARAN SUNGAI SELANGOR

SUBANG JAYA - Polis menahan dua lelaki yang merupakan pekerja serta pengusaha pontun bagi membantu siasatan kes pencemaran minyak diesel di Sungai Selangor baru-baru ini.

Tangkapan individu berusia lingkungan awal 30-an itu dibuat serentak kelmarin di pontun terbabit di Kuala Selangor.

Ketua Polis Selangor, Datuk Noor Azam Jamaludin berkata, kedua-dua mereka kini direman selama empat hari sehingga Ahad.

"Kes akan disiasat mengikut Seksyen 430 Kanun Keseksaan.

"Setakat ini, kita juga telah merekodkan lebih 10 keterangan. Polis juga sedang bekerjasama dengan pihak Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) dan Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) untuk tindakan lanjut," katanya pada sidang akhbar di The Saujana Hotel, di sini selepas Majlis Perasmian Penutupan Seminar dan Latihan Ancaman Keganasan 2019 semalam.

Mengulas berkenaan dakwaan bahawa sekumpulan pemancing dipercayai menjadi punca pencemaran, Noor Azam berkata, dakwaan itu berdasarkan laporan yang diterima pihaknya namun kesahihannya belum dapat dipastikan.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	SINAR HARIAN
TAJUK BERITA	ENAM LOKASI JEJAK WARISAN DI KUALA KUBU BHARU
MUKA SURAT	34

Enam lokasi Jejak Warisan di Kuala Kubu Bharu

KUALA KUBU BHARU - Nama Kuala Kubu Bharu bukan asing bagi pengunjung dalam dan luar negara kerana terkenal dengan pelbagai peristiwa serta bangunan bersejarah.

Bagi mempermudahkan pengunjung, Majlis Daerah Hulu Selangor (MDHS) memperkenalkan Jejak Warisan (*Heritage Trail*) membabitkan enam lokasi bersejarah di bandar berkenaan.

Setiausaha MDHS, Awaluddin Zakaria, pengunjung boleh mengikuti jejak setiap lokasi yang turut dipaparkan fakta berkaitan pada papan tanda disediakan.

"Antara aktiviti Jejak Warisan yang ada di negara ini termasuk di Pulau Pinang, Melaka, Sun Yatt Sen, Ipoh dan Klang.

Bangunan yang dibina pada 1930 yang menjadi antara tarikan di Kuala Kubu Bharu.

Menara Jam Peringatan King George VI antara enam lokasi Jejak Warisan.

"MDHS menyediakan maklumat secara interaktif melalui imbasan kod QR agar pengunjung dapat memuat turun informasi berkaitan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Awaluddin berkata, enam lokasi tersebut adalah Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah (PDT) Hulu Selangor yang dibina pada 1930, Menara Jam Peringatan King George VI (1937) dan Ibu Pejabat Polis Trafik Hulu Selangor (1914).

Lokasi lain ialah Pejabat Pos Kuala Kubu Bharu (1930), Rumah Kedai No 1 dan 2 Jalan Dato Tabal (Darurat Malaya) serta Balai Bomba Lama Kuala Kubu Bharu (1931).

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	KOSMO!
TAJUK BERITA	DUA SUSPEK PUNCA PENCEMARAN SUNGAI SELANGOR DITAHAN
MUKA SURAT	3

Dua suspek punca pencemaran Sungai Selangor ditahan

PETALING JAYA – Dua lelaki yang merupakan pengusaha pontun dan pekerjanya ditahan bagi membantu siasatan berhubung kejadian pencemaran minyak diesel di Sungai Selangor yang mengakibatkan gangguan bekalan air kepada pengguna di sekitar Lembah Klang baru-baru ini.

Ketua Polis Selangor, Datuk Noor Azam Jamaludin berkata, kedua-dua individu berusia 20-an hingga 30-an itu ditahan serentak di pontun terbabit di Kuala Selangor dan direman selama empat hari sehingga Ahad ini bagi membantu siasatan.

"Setakat ini lebih daripada 10 keterangan telah direkodkan dan siasatan dilakukan mengikut Seksyen 430 Kanun Keseksaan.

"Polis juga sedang bekerjasama dengan pihak Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) dan Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) untuk tindakan selanjutnya," katanya pada satu sidang akhbar selepas menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Penutupan Seminar dan Latihan Ancaman Keganasan 2019 di Subang Jaya, dekat sini semalam.

Menurut Noor Azam, pihaknya juga menolak kemungkinan terdapatnya elemen gangsterisme berhubung kejadian tersebut.

"Tidak timbul isu elemen gangsterisme kerana kawasan ini mempunyai tiga jalan ke sana di mana salah satunya dikawal oleh Jabatan Sukarelawan Malaysia," katanya.

KOSMO(3)

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	KOSMO!
TAJUK BERITA	RAKYAT SELANGOR MASUK UNIVERSITI DAPAT RM1,000
MUKA SURAT	18

Rakyat Selangor masuk Universiti dapat RM1,000

KOSMO (18)

SHAH ALAM – Kerajaan Selangor membuka semula permohonan bagi program Hadiah Pengajian Institut Pengajian Tinggi (HPIPT) atau lebih dikenali sebagai 'hadiah masuk universiti, kata Menteri Besar Selangor, Amirudin Shari.

Beliau berkata, mana-mana mahasiswa yang telah berdaftar untuk sesi pengajian di institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) awam dan swasta boleh memohon HPIPT berjumlah RM1,000 daripada kerajaan negeri bermula semalam.

"Syarat kelayakan (permohonan) dari segi pendapatan minimum isi rumah juga telah dinaikkan daripada RM3,000 ke bawah kepada RM5,000 ke bawah.

"Mahasiswa boleh memohon untuk menerima hadiah masuk universiti ini di laman sesawang rasmi *https://hpipt.selangor.gov.my* dan tarikh tutup permohonan adalah pada 27 Ogos ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Antara syarat kelayakan bagi permohonan HPIPT adalah pemohon, ibu dan bapa adalah warganegara Malaysia, pemohon lahir dan menetap di Selangor atau bermastautin dan bersekolah di negeri itu tidak kurang daripada 11 tahun, telah mendaftarkan diri di IPT bagi memulakan sesi pengajian dan pemohon adalah pelajar tahun pertama sahaja.

Amirudin memberitahu, pembukaan semula permohonan program itu selaras tekad kerajaan negeri dalam memberdaya rakyat di Selangor menerusi agenda pendidikan yang holistik.

Jelasnya, penambahbaikan program itu bagi membolehkan lebih ramai pelajar dan keluarga mendapat manfaat daripada hasil kerajaan negeri.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE SUN
TAJUK BERITA	WATER SUPPLY FULLY RESTRORED
MUKA SURAT	6

Water supply fully restored

THE SUN (6)

KUALA LUMPUR: Water supply to all areas in Selangor affected by an unscheduled water cut has been fully restored, two days ahead of schedule.

The disruption caused by spillage of 100 litres of benzene diesel into Sungai Selangor on Sunday left more than a million consumers without water.

Among the areas hit were Petaling, Klang, Shah Alam, Kuala Lumpur, Gombak, Kuala Selangor, Hulu Selangor and Kuala Langat.

Four water treatment plants had to be shut down to be cleaned up.

Abdul Raof Ahmad, the head of customer relationship and communication at Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor, thanked all government agencies, water supply companies in other states and the state government for the assistance rendered.

This was the second disruption in less than a week. Last Friday, oil-based discharge from a workshop and an industrial area left 1.2 million people without water.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE SUN
TAJUK BERITA	GOVT TO TAP GROUNDWATER
MUKA SURAT	6

Govt to tap groundwater

Sites will be based on studies

THE SUN (6)

BY **ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government is looking into tapping groundwater by next year.

Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources Dr Xavier Jayakumar said research data would be studied holistically to determine which were the most suitable areas to tap groundwater to meet the country's needs in the long term.

"The Department of Minerals and Geoscience Malaysia began its research on the exploitation of groundwater a few years ago and we expect the study to be completed next year," he told a press conference after the soft launch of the Malaysia International Water Convention 2019 at the Pantai Sewage Treatment Plant here yesterday.

He said groundwater supply only accounted for 3% of the country's water needs and most of it was being used for industrial purposes.

In the current year's budget RM690 million was allocated for the water sector. Of the sum, RM590 million was to be used to finance improvements to water supply and sewerage services.

He said steps were being taken to address the water supply issues, including non-revenue water (NRW). NRW is treated water that is lost through leakages and theft.

"The level of NRW has been rising the past few years and the government has spent a lot of money to address it. However, that has not translated into any reduction of NRW and it is very worrying."

Xavier said his ministry would leave it to the police to take action over the discharge of 100 litres of benzene diesel into Sungai Selangor that caused a water cut on Sunday.

He said the police were investigating the incident as a case of sabotage after the National Water Services Commission lodged a police report.

"The government takes this very seriously and we want to ensure the most severe punishment (is meted out) under the law."

Xavier said steps would also be taken to audit the water industry, beginning with the water supply companies.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE STAR STAR METRO
TAJUK BERITA	TOWARDS A GREEN STATE
MUKA SURAT	6

Towards a green state

THE STAR STAR METRO (6)

Sultan Sharafuddin leads the way at tree-planting event

By FARID WAHAB
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SELANGOR Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah graced the "Urban Tree Planting Programme 2019" in Cyberjaya.

Accompanied by his wife Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin Abdul Rahman and son Tengku Amir Shah, he planted the Swietenia Macrophylla tree, also known as *tunjuk langit*, at the event.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin and Tengku Amir Shah planted the Delonix Regia and Caesalpinia Sappan trees respectively.

Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Amirudin Shari officiated at the event which covered two plots of land totalling 58,669sq m.

Amirudin said the programme was in line with Sultan Sharafuddin's call for more trees to be planted in the state.

"Trees play an important role as a carbon sequester and the global warming mitigation strategy.

"According to the United Nations, strategic tree placements in a city can reduce the temperature.

"This programme is part of our efforts to reduce carbon dioxide in Cyberjaya by 32% in 2025," he said, adding that this was in line with the Low Carbon City Framework.

Amirudin said this was the third year of the programme, adding that the first programme was held in March 5, 2017, whereby 5,000 mangrove trees were planted in Taman Alam in Kuala Selangor.

"On March 18 last year, 3,000 mangrove trees were planted at the Kechil Forest Reserve in Bagan Lalang.

More than 2,000 people comprising civil servants, non-governmental organisation members and students from public and private institutions took part in the tree-planting programme in Cyberjaya.

At the event, 1,500 plants and 3,000 small shrubs were planted.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE STAR STAR METRO
TAJUK BERITA	PARKING AND HYGIENE WOES PLAGUE JALAN SS5/6
MUKA SURAT	2

Parking and hygiene woes plague Jalan SS5D/6

THE STAR
STAR METRO
(2)

Residents urge MBPJ to relocate food trucks, stalls operating in area

By FARID WAHAB
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RESIDENTS in Jalan SS5D/6 in SS5, Petaling Jaya, are upset over hawkers operating in the neighbourhood, claiming that they are contributing to cleanliness issues and increased traffic.

Operating from food trucks and makeshift stalls located across a hypermarket, these hawkers sell fried rice, burgers, fried chicken and even durian, among other things.

One resident, Vinolan Batsalaruban, said the road was often littered with rubbish and drains were clogged because of improper waste disposal by the hawkers.

"Used plastic bags, food wrappers and plastic cups are discarded on the road by irresponsible customers," he said, adding that the stalls often begin operating as early as 8am and would wind down operations only at night.

He said the makeshift stalls, which began mushrooming in the area three years ago, were also causing the rat population in the area to increase.

Despite multiple complaint made to Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ), Vinolan said no concrete action had been taken thus far.

"Several officers were despatched to the area a few months back but they only issued summonses to the vehicles which were parked near the stalls.

> Used plastic bags, food wrappers and plastic cups are discarded on the road by irresponsible customers.
>
> Vinolan Batsalaruban

Another resident, who did not want to be named, said haphazard parking by the hawkers and their customers was a cause for concern.

A check by *StarMetro* revealed that one house was even being used for commercial purposes as tables and chairs were set up to accommodate customers.

Kelana Jaya Hawkers Association chairman Hamizah Abdul Hamid, when contacted, said all the hawkers in that area were licensed.

"Initially, the hawkers operated on the other side of the road, in front of the hypermarket.

"However, they were moved to the current location two decades ago following a discussion with the residents and MBPJ at the time."

She added that the majority of vehicles parked in the area belonged to those working at the offices there who wanted to avoid paying for parking.

MBPJ corporate communications officer Ahmad Iskandar Mohamad Mukhtar, when contacted, said the matter had been forwarded to the relevant department for investigation.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE STAR STAR METRO
TAJUK BERITA	DANGER LURKING AT JUNCTIONS
MUKA SURAT	3

STAR METRO (3)

Danger lurking at junctions

Taman Klang Jaya and Taman Desawan residents want speed bumps installed to deter reckless motorists

By BRENDA CH'NG
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MOTORISTS driving around Taman Klang Jaya and Taman Desawan in Klang have to be extra cautious when passing several junctions in these two neighbourhoods.

These dangerous junctions include the T-junction at Jalan Serunai 1 and Jalan Seruling 29, the junction right after SMK Raja Mahadi along Jalan Serunai 1, the cross junction at Lebuh Gambus and Jalan Selampit 29, the traffic light junction at Jalan Selampit 29 and Jalan Serunai 1, and the junction at Jalan Serunai 1 and Jalan Seruling 39.

Over the years, numerous accidents have occurred here and residents want Klang Municipal Council (MPK) to reallign these danger spots.

"Over the past 30 years that I have lived here, I have witnessed at least 50 to 60 accidents at the Jalan Serunai 1 and Jalan Seruling 39 junction, which is just outside my house," said resident Mohan Khrishnan.

He said his daughter was also involved in an accident there when she was trying to turn from Jalan Seruling 39 onto Jalan Serunai 1.

"Motorists driving along Jalan Serunai 1 tend to speed along the road making it really dangerous for other motorists who are trying to get on that road.

"Sometimes even after midnight, I can hear the sounds of cars crashing into each other," he said.

Several fatal accidents had occurred at this spot and the red cloth wrapped around a tree near the junction are a stark reminder of the deaths.

Tilaka says there should be speed bumps at Jalan Selampit 29.

Apart from that junction, the crossroads at Lebuh Gambus and Jalan Selampit 29 is also a danger zone, with several accidents taking place there over the years.

Some motorists either spin out of control at this spot and end up hitting the huge water pipes which sit across a monsoon drain along the road, or collide with other vehicles.

"Most of the accidents usually happen at night and just two weeks ago, an ambulance had to be summoned because the accident was so bad; the car would have plunged into the monsoon drain if not for the water pipes," said resident Ping Koh Chuan.

He added that sometimes there were two or three accidents a day at this junction.

Ping is worried that one of these days an accident might damage the water pipes and cause water disruption in the neighbourhood.

When *StarMetro* visited the area, we noticed that some motorists coming from Jalan Selampit 29 did not slow down or look out for oncoming cars along Lebuh Gambus before making a turn.

Also, there were no speed bumps along Jalan Selampit 29. Even the stop signs there had gone missing.

"There is a speed bump near the junction along Lebuh Gambus but motorists tend to speed after passing it.

"It is pointless to only have one speed bump along Lebuh Gambus and none along Jalan Selampit 29," said Taman Klang Jaya residents association chairman S. Tilaka.

She said MPK should place double speed bumps at all four sides of the crossroads between Lebuh Gambus and Jalan Selampit 29 to force motorists to slow down when they approach the junction.

Many motorists use Lebuh Gambus as a shortcut to get to Jalan Langat, Taman Sentosa and Bandar Puteri.

"We highlighted this during the Bandar Selamat workshop conducted by MPK's Town Planning Department recently and have also requested for the speed bumps to be installed at Jalan Selampit 29," she added.

When contacted, MPK corporate communications director Norfiza Mahfiz said they were not aware of the frequent accidents happening at these danger spots at Taman Klang Jaya and Taman Desawan.

"When I checked with the traffic police, there were no reports of accidents in those areas, but we received the application for the speed bumps during the workshop and our officers will look into this matter," she said.

KERATAN AKHBAR 26 JULAI 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	THE STAR STAR METRO
TAJUK BERITA	WATER DISRUPTION IS NOT A LAUGHING MATTER
MUKA SURAT	22

Water disruption is not a laughing matter

THE STAR (22)

Not a joke: Residents of Taman Seri Gombak collecting water from Syabas' static water tank due to the recent disruptions.

Access to our water resources should be tightly controlled to prevent any sabotage.

THIS joke has been making its rounds on social media:

Air Panas in Negri Sembilan
Air Keroh in Melaka
Air Hitam in Johor
Air Tak Ada (no water) in Selangor

The people who are caught in this situation are not laughing though. In fact, they don't find the frequent water supply disruption in the Klang Valley the slightest bit funny.

The seven million plus consumers who call Malaysia's industrial and commercial heartland home are sick and tired of the same old excuses that are being trotted out – (in no particular order) the lack of rainfall, excessive ammonia content in the Langat catchment area, unscheduled loss of water, burst pipes, diesel pollution and the latest, sabotage.

Sigh. This constant blame game is like a broken record. We've heard it all before.

If you live in Petaling Jaya or Klang and have been without regular water supply, intermittently for eight days, would you accept these excuses?

Try explaining diesel pollution to the numerous businesses that have been affected by irregular water supply in Hulu Langat.

A colleague, who has a family of six, told me about the hardship he faced.

The family could not cook and because of that he spent more than RM100 a day buying them meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

He also had to buy paper plates and cups as well as bottled water.

The stores in Kelana Jaya ran out of mineral water very quickly and he had to travel to Taman Tun Dr Ismail, about 10km away, to do his laundry for the family.

"My son's school appealed to parents to bring 10 litres of water each to help clean the school's toilets," he added.

Our authorities, and Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) in particular, should stop shifting the blame and accept responsibility for this ridiculous state of affairs.

Syabas says the latest water disruption, resulting in the closure of all four water treatment plants and affecting about 1.2 million consumers, was due to diesel pollution in Sungai Selangor and the source of this pollutant was traced to sandmining activities at the riverbed.

Ironically, this sandmining in Sungai Selangor is a legal operation sanctioned by the Selangor state government and undertaken by a subsidiary of the state.

But Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd's contractor, Two-B Machineries Sdn Bhd, lodged a police report on their encounter with anglers who were fishing near a pontoon in the river just before the pollution occurred.

The police are now investigating the possibility that these anglers released diesel into the river as an act of sabotage.

The case is being investigated under Section 430 of the Penal Code for mischief by injury to works of irrigation or by wrongfully diverting water, which carries a jail term of between five and 30 years, a fine or both.

But, the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) has also voiced concerns over the presence of the sand contractors along Sungai Selangor.

In fact, it's not only the sandmining activity that should be of concern to us, it is also the operations of numerous backyard industries along our water source.

These illegal businesses have been operating with impunity for years, and the authorities have yet to completely shut them down.

In other countries the water source is highly protected but in Malaysia, we seem to have a lackadaisical attitude towards this precious commodity.

Syabas should restrict access and make security a priority not only at the water treatment plants, but also at major water sources.

Any form of activity, be it leisure or commercial, along Sungai Selangor, should be strictly controlled.

Moving forward, there appears to be some good news on the horizon though.

The long-awaited Langat 2 Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System (LRAL2) will begin supplying 325 million litres of treated water to residents in the Klang Valley in August.

The volume will account for 25% of treated water from the first phase of the project and will benefit about 325,000 user accounts.

The first phase of the LRAL2, which is expected to be completed by 2022, will supply 1,130 million litres of water a day and increase the water supply reserves in Selangor.

And this will eventually benefit more than one million consumers.

Globally, 663 million people live without easy access to clean water, a sharp contrast to Malaysia, with its abundant water supply. But it is sad that many of us take our precious resource for granted.

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Warning letters for Farhash and Amirudin

THE STAR (12)

PETALING JAYA: The PKR disciplinary board will issue warning letters to two top state leaders to explain their controversial statements involving a viral sex video, implicating a Cabinet minister.

They are Perak PKR chairman Farhash Wafa Salvador Rizal Mubarak and Selangor PKR chairman Amirudin Shari, who is also Selangor Mentri Besar.

In a statement, the board said it had received complaints regarding disciplinary misconduct by several party members, who allegedly issued statements attacking certain individuals.

"On the advice of the political bureau we will send letters to the Perak PKR chairman, Selangor PKR chairman and several others.

"We will also remind and advise them to be mindful of their behaviour as a leader and prioritise the unity of the party," it said.

"The board reserves the right to take action based on the party's disciplinary procedures if this reminder does not get a positive response from the parties involved," it said.

On Tuesday, Farhash, who is also the political secretary of PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, along with former Santubong PKR youth chief Haziq Abdullah Abdul Aziz and another man, were released on police bail after being remanded since July 16.