



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 Sep 2020 (Isnin)

Berita Harian

PBT diberi kuasa ambil tindakan undang-undang	1
Teliti keberkesanan penalti lebih tinggi pesalah kes	2
Kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi negara lebih baik	3
'Bukan soal jawatan, tetapi berkhidmat untuk rakyat'	4

Utusan Malaysia

Majlis Agama Islam 'berpeluk tubuh'?	5
Azmin lebih selesa berkawan dengan Pas, UMNO	6
Pinda akta elak 'pesta' tiada air	7

Kosmo

Bayar gaji berdasarkan prestasi	8
---------------------------------	---

Sinar Harian

Harapan kepada LRA Langat 2	9
'Tak guna dapat air percuma jika bekalan asyik putus'	10
KPKT kaji kelompongan undang-undang	11
Umno desak pinda akta	12
2 ADUN Bebas Kedah sah sertai Bersatu	13
Bekalan air tidak patut dicemari dengan mudah	14
Air oh air...	15
Fokus pelaburan benilai tinggi	16

The Star

Hip to be square	17
Dry taps force residents to opt for staycations	18
Water woes put businesses in a bind	19
500 objections over golf course rezoning proposal	20
COUNCIL MATTERS	21
High alert for high tide on Sept 19 and 20	22
Uncollected rubbish mars recreational spot	23
Factory owner's son says they will cooperate over pollution issue	24
Water supply to 618 areas restored	25

New Straits Times

Apathy unlimited	26
'POLLUTERS MUST CLEAN UP THE MESS'	27
'Amendment will expand local authorities' power'	28
Klang MP suggests setting up river monitoring agency	29
'ENHANCED DoE DATABASE CAN TACKLE WATER ISSUE'	30
Fomca: Crisis shows reserve deficiency	31

The Malaysian Reserve

Growing calls to end Selangor's water issues	32
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KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Berita Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Teliti keberkesanan penalti lebih tinggi pesalah kes
Muka Surat	:	3

Teliti keberkesanan penalti lebih tinggi pesalah kes

Kuala Lumpur: Peningkatan nilai denda terhadap pesalah kes pencemaran sumber air perlu disusuli penyelarasan kerjasama pelbagai agensi dan penguatkuasaan secara menyeluruh, khususnya membabitkan 'kawasan panas'.

Presiden Persatuan Pencinta Alam (MNS), Prof Dr Ahmad Ismail, menyifatkan pindaan perundangan berkaitan untuk memperuntukkan hukuman denda lebih berat kepada pesalah kes sedemikian adalah langkah tepat mengikut perkembangan semasa.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, setiap prosiding mahkamah membabitkan kes pencemaran memerlukan beban pembuktian yang sangat sukar; sekali gus menyaksikan pesalah biasanya hanya dikenakan denda pada kadar lebih rendah.

"Membuktikan kesan pencemaran bukan tugas mudah kerana akhirnya hakim perlu mem-

buat keputusan mengikut asas pembuktian dan hujahan, termasuk membabitkan kos kerugian yang dialami pelbagai pihak dalam insiden pencemaran air.

"Hasrat kerajaan negeri dan Kerajaan Persekutuan untuk memindahkan perundangan berkaitan supaya kadar penalti ditingkatkan amat tepat, tetapi sejauh mana ia dapat menjadi pemangkin ke arah usaha mengekang insiden sedemikian daripada berusuhan adalah persoalan lain.

"Banyak faktor lain yang memainkan peranan jika kita teliti dari aspek keberkesanan perundangan dengan memperuntukkan penalti lebih tinggi," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Kelmanin, Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari dilaporkan berkata, denda maksimum untuk kesalahan pencemaran air akan dinaikkan kepada RM1 juta, berbanding jumlah asal RM500,000 menerusi langkah me-

nambah baik Enakmen Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) 1999.

Pindaan enakmen berkenaan akan dibawa untuk dibentangkan pada persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor yang dijadualkan mulai Oktober hingga November depan.

Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man turut dilaporkan berkata, pindaan terhadap peruntukan undang-undang sedia ada akan disegerakan supaya hukuman lebih berat dikenakan terhadap pesalah kes pencemaran sumber air.

Pindaan itu antara lain membabitkan Seksyen 121 Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 (Akta 655), Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN) dan Akta Kuil Alam Sekeling 1974.

Ahmad berkata, usaha menangani pencemaran air juga wajar disusuli pelarasaran kerjasama di antara Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), Kementerian Perumahan



Dr Ahmad Ismail

dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT), agensi penyelia pembekalan air di peringkat negeri seperti Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) serta kerajaan negeri.

"Jika penguatkuasaan dan pengurusan membabitkan industri yang berupaya mengundang risiko pencemaran dilakukan secara lebih bersepada, insiden yang menjelaskan pelbagai sektor ekonomi seperti ini mungkin tidak akan berulang.

"Jangan kompromi perihal menjaga zon penampungan sungai kerana sebarang operasi kilang, tanpa mengira jenis pelupusan bahan buangan berdekatan tebing sungai berupaya mengundang kesan negatif yang tidak dapat dijangka," katanya.



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Berita Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi negara lebih baik
Muka Surat	:	5

Kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi negara lebih baik

Alor Setar: Sektor industri yang kembali beroperasi dalam tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Permaiuan (PKPP), berpotensi menjadikan Malaysia antara negara terawal bangkit semula dengan kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi lebih baik susulan pandemik COVID-19.

Menteri Kanan (Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri), Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, berkata walaupun ekonomi negara menguncup 17.1 peratus seperti diumumkan baru-baru ini, trend semasa adalah positif ke arah lansaran lebih baik.

"Kini kebanyakan sektor kembali beroperasi dan lebih 15 juta penduduk kembali bekerja. Kadar pengangguran mula berkurangan disebabkan sektor ini kembali beroperasi," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau menjelaskan, suntikan Pakej Rangsangan Ekonomi dan Pelan Jana Semula Ekonomi Negara (PENJANA) juga dapat menangani kesan negatif akibat pandemik COVID-19.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas Majlis Makan Malam Penggerak Komuniti Negara (PKN) Kedah/Perlis di Dewan Majlis Bandaraya Alor Setar (MBAS), di sini

 **Kebanyakan sektor kembali beroperasi dan lebih 15 juta penduduk kembali bekerja. Kadar pengangguran mula berkurangan.**

Mohamed Azmin Ali,
Menteri Kanan (Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri)

malam kelmarin yang turut dihadiri Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT), Zu'raida Kamaruddin.

Mohamed Azmin berkata, Malaysia dilihat berada pada landasan betul berikutnya laporan antarabangsa mengunjurkan pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) pada tahun depan antara 6.3 hingga 7.5 peratus.

Beliau menegaskan, rakyat perlu bersama-sama membantu ke arah mencapai sasaran berkenaan dengan berbelanja agar ekonomi negara terus berkembang.

"Pada masa sama, kita tidak mahu ada pihak cuba menakut-nakutkan rakyat dengan perkara tidak benar."

"Saya akan membawa barisan pimpinan Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) untuk bertemu pemegang saham, persatuan pengilang, industri dan sebagainya untuk mendengar keluhan dan keperluan mereka.

"Semua penggiat industri ini harus seiring dengan kerajaan untuk memastikan pertumbuhan ekonomi negara terus positif pada 2021," katanya.



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Akhbar	:	Berita Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	'Bukan soal jawatan, tetapi berkhidmat untuk rakyat'
Muka Surat	:	15

'Bukan soal jawatan, tetapi berkhidmat untuk rakyat'

Alor Setar: Ahli Parlimen Gombak, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali menyatakan pendiriannya tidak mahu memikirkan soal jawatan dalam Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (BERSATU) yang baru disertai pada 22 Ogos lalu.

Beliau berkata, apa yang difirkannya adalah menyururkan khidmat kepada parti berkenaan selain Perikatan Nasional (PN) yang mentadbir negara ini.

"Saya bersama Ahli Parlimen Ampang, Zuraida Kamaruddin dan beberapa Ahli Parlimen lain menyertai BERSATU sebelum ini bukan untuk memikirkan soal kedudukan, tetapi kami mahu kuhulkan kerajaan PN dan BERSATU.

"Kita hanya mahu berkhidmat kepada parti dan kerajaan, lagi pun saya sudah bersama Perdana Menteri juga Presiden BERSATU, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin ketika beliau menjadi pemimpin UMNO lagi.

UMNO lagi. Saya antara penyokong kuat beliau," katanya ditemui selepas Majlis Makan Malam Penggerak Komuniti Negara (PKN) Kadur/Perlis di sini, malam kelmarin.

Sebelum ini, media melaporkan Timbalan Presiden BERSATU, Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu, sebagai berkata kedudukan bekas Timbalan Presiden PKR itu akan dibincangkan pada mesyuarat agung huar biasa (EGM) bagi melantik beliau sebagai seorang daripada naib presiden.

Azmin yang juga Menteri Kanan merangkap Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri dalam ucapannya memberitahu beliau lebih selesa berkawan atau bekerjasama dengan PAS dan UMNO dalam usaha memenuhi aspirasi rakyat.

Rakyat memerlukan kerajaan yang stabil daripada diperlukan dengan kemelut perburutan jawatan

Perdana Menteri seperti berlaku dalam Pakatan Harapan (PH) sebelum ini.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Azmin turut menyatakan keyakinan bahawa gabungan PN dan Muafakat Nasional (MN) yang dibentuk mampu mencapai kejayaan yang cemerlang pada Pilihan Raya Umum (PRU) Ke-15 jika ia dilaksanakan dalam masa terdekat.

Katanya, keyakinan itu bersandarkan sokongan masyarakat berbilang bangsa ketika Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) DUN Slim dan Chini, selain penerimaan rakyat terhadap kepemimpinan Muhyiddin, terutama ketika proses fasa pemuliharan pandemik COVID-19.

Pada majlis sama, dua wakil rakyat Bebas di Kedah, Azman Nasrudin dan Dr Robert Ling Kui Ee mengumumkan menyertai BERSATU.

Azman adalah Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Lunas ma-

Kita hanya mahu berkhidmat kepada parti dan kerajaan, lagi pun saya sudah bersama Perdana Menteri yang juga Presiden BERSATU, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin ketika beliau menjadi pemimpin UMNO lagi.

**Mohamed Azmin Ali,
Ahli Parlimen Gombak**



nakala Robert adalah ADUN Si-dam yang juga EXCO kerajaan negeri.

Sebelum ini, Azman dan Robert mengumumkan keluar PKR serta menjadi wakil rakyat Bebas dengan menyatakan sokongan kepada PN, pada 12 Mei lalu.

Azman berkata, pihaknya menjangkakan hampir 10,000 ahli PKN di negeri ini akan mengikut langkahnya menyertai BERSATU.

Penyertaan akar umbi PKN dalam BERSATU tidak lama lagi akan turut membabitkan kaum lain iaitu India, Cina dan Siam.

La susulan pengumuman Presiden BERSATU, Muhyiddin baha-wa parti itu akan mewujudkan sayap baharu bagi membolehkan ahli bersekutu daripada bukan Melayu dan bukan Bumiputra, dapat bersama memegang jawatan dan menyumbang idea.



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Utusan Malaysia
Tajuk Berita	:	Majlis Agama Islam 'berpeluk tubuh'?
Muka Surat	:	1

Penularan fahaman liberal berkembang agresif dalam media sosial

Majlis Agama Islam 'berpeluk tubuh'?

Oleh MASZUREEN HADZMAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Majlis agama Islam setiap negeri dan Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM) digesa tidak 'berpeluk tubuh' kerana penularan fahaman liberal yang bercanggah dengan pegangan Ahli Sunnah Wa Jamaah.

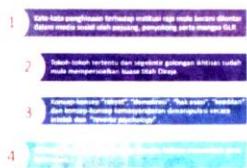
Sumber menerasai bahawa Majlis Agama Islam, ikerana hasil risikan Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) mendapat fahaman dan ideologi berkembang terhadap *freemasonry* ini sudah menjadi ancaman serius di negara ini yang disebarkan melalui Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WhatsApp dan Telegram sebagai 'alat propaganda songsa'.

Lebih mengutuk, ideologi liberal itu dipercayai telah mula berkembang di Lembah Klang, Pulau Pinang dan Johor.

Bersambung di muka 2

Majlis Agama Islam 'berpeluk tubuh'?

Dari muka 1 | KONSEP PENGARUH DILAKUKAN



ANTARA fahaman dan ideologi gerakan liberal disebarluaskan dalam media sosial yang didebak oleh Majlis Agama Selangor (MAIS).

"PDRM mengesas anasir ini bukan sahaja lantang mengejutkan umum, bahkan juga pada pengangkutan awam seperti perkhemahan transit aliran ringan (LRT) sebagai platform untuk menyebarkan fahaman dan ideologi liberal ini."

Gerakan ini seolah-olah melakukan 'dakwah jalanan', padabola i digerakkan secara agresif untuk turunkan populasi.

"Kelebihan masing-masing di sebab jabatan ada bahagian perundungan sendiri termasuklah PDRM."

"Jadi, setiap majlis agama dalam negeri dan SKMM akan apa bila pihak mereka membuat adu sahaja bahan-bahan yang berunsur fahaman liberal ini terparap dalam laman sosial mereka. Jangan buat 'berpeluk tubuh' sahaja, tunggu laporan orang ramai kepada pihak polis kemudian baru bertindak...macam 'makan gati buta'." kata sumber dalam entangan dengan akibat ini semalam.

Menurut sumber itu, ideologi songsa sememangnya kiai dalam dataran Islam di seluruh Islam negara ini dan tidak mahu hiarankan munculnya golongan yang memintut kesamarataan jantina, perkahwinan sesama jenis, menjadikan ulama sejalan menghalau dengan perkahwinan dengan pengaruh agama lain serta tuntutan kebasan beragama.

Paling menjengkelkan ada kalangan mereka ini tanpa songsa."

Justeru, kata sumber itu, antara benteng untuk mengawal wacana liberal ini merupakan dengan adabah dengan mendapatkan kerjasama serius daripada semua pihak terutama majlis dan jabatan agama Islam negeri dan SKMM.

"Ditambah lagi, naskah yang turut mendakwa kumpulan tersebut kerap mengadakan persidangan video (*video conferencing*) yang dilakukan secara sulit pada awal pagi dan mengelak gerakan meraka di luar,"

"Penularan sekaranglah tidak tundukan tegas dan

"Difahamkan, mana-mana

individu yang mahu menyertai perbincangan sulit tersebut akan diberikan kata laluan (khat) beberapa jam sebelum bertemu.

"Anasir ini dipercayai bergerak dengan dibentengi kuasa dan sokongan besar daripada organisasi dan individu tertentu," katanya.

"Penularan sekarang ada orang Islam melakukan tindak

an serupa dengan menghina agama lain tentunya pantas ada pihak berwenang membela dan berikan pembenaran

di sini," ujar Melayu Islam.

Jadi, adakah agensi-agensi berkaitan bersedia untuk mempertahankan agama rasmi negara ini bersama-sama dari ditindas?" tegasnya.



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Akhbar	:	Utusan Malaysia
Tajuk Berita	:	Azmin lebih selesa berkawan dengan Pas, UMNO
Muka Surat	:	6

Azmin lebih selesa berkawan dengan Pas, UMNO

ALOR SETAR: Ahli Parlimen Gombak, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali mengakui beliau lebih selesa berkawan dan bekerjasama dengan Pas serta UMNO berbanding Presiden Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Mohamed Azmin yang juga bekas Timbalan Presiden PKR berkata, beliau juga lebih yakin menjalankan kerjasama dengan pemimpin Pas dan UMNO dalam Perikatan Nasional (PN) dan Muafakat Nasional (MN).

Malah menurutnya, beliau bosan dengan Anwar yang sebelum ini bercakap mengenai citacitanya menjadi Perdana Menteri pada setiap hari manakala bekas Perdana Menteri, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad pula masih mahu memegang jawatan tersebut.

“Saya lebih yakin duduk di sebelah Pas dan UMNO daripada duduk dengan Anwar. Saya bukan kenal dia satu hari (atau) dua hari, berpuluhan tahun (saya kenal), sudah-sudahlah.

“Saya ingat dua-dua ini rehat, serahkan kepimpinan kepada (Perdana Menteri) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yasin,” katanya ketika berucap pada Majlis Makan Malam Penggerak Komuniti Negara (PKN) Kedah di Alor Setar



malam semalam.

Yang hadir sama Ahli Parlimen Ampang, Zuraida Kamaruddin dan Pengurus PKN Kedah, Azman Nasrudin.

Mohamed Azmin berkata, atas sebab tersebut juga beliau mengambil keputusan untuk tidak lagi bersama Pakatan Harapan (PH), sebaliknya menyokong kerajaan PN pimpinan Muhyiddin.

Sementara itu, dalam sidang akhbar selepas majlis itu, beliau menegaskan tidak mahu memikirkan soal jawatan dalam Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) yang baharu disertai-

“
Saya lebih yakin duduk di sebelah Pas dan UMNO daripada duduk dengan Anwar. Saya bukan kenal dia satu hari (atau) dua hari, berpuluhan tahun (saya kenal), sudah-sudahlah.”

MOHAMED AZMIN ALI

nya pada 22 Ogos lalu.

Katanya, pada masa ini, apa yang difikirkan adalah hanya untuk menyalurkan khidmat kepada parti berkenaan selain kerajaan baharu PN yang mendirikan negara.

“Saya dan beberapa ahli Parlimen lain menyertai Bersatu bukanlah untuk memikirkan soal kedudukan, tapi kami mahu kukuhkan kerajaan PN dan Bersatu,” katanya.



KERATAN AKHBAR
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Akhbar	:	Utusan Malaysia
Tajuk Berita	:	Pinda akta elak 'pesta' tiada air
Muka Surat	:	12

Pinda akta elak 'pesta' tiada air

ALOR SETAR: Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) mengakui terdapat kelompongan undang-undang di bawah Akta Kerajaan Tempatan bagi mengambil tindakan lebih tegas terhadap pengilang yang melakukan pencemaran sumber bekalan air.

Menterinya, Zuraida Kamaruddin berkata, keadaan tersebut menyebabkan pihak pengilang tidak takut melakukan kesalahan walaupun boleh memberi kesan terhadap ramai pengguna.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, KPKT akan mengusulkan rang undang-undang di bawah akta tersebut bagi membolehkan tindakan lebih tegas dikenakan ke atas pengilang yang tidak ber-

tanggungjawab.

"KPKT maklum ada kelompongan dalam undang-undang dan kita memang dalam perseiduan rang undang-undang untuk penguatkuasaan lebih tegas kepada pengilang yang mencearkan air," katanya selepas mengadakan kunjungan hormat ke atas Menteri Besar Kedah, Muhammad Sanusi Md. Nor di sini semalam.

Utusan Malaysia semalam melaporkan kerajaan akan menyegerakan pindaan undang-undang sedia ada supaya hukuman lebih berat terhadap pesalah yang melakukan pencemaran terhadap sumber air.

Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan

Man dilaporkan berkata, pindaan yang dibuat membabitkan Seksyen 121 Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 (Akta 655), Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN) dan Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling.

Zuraida berkata, gangguan bekalan air di Lembah Klang turut melibatkan kira-kira 5,000 penduduk yang mendiami unit Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Lembah Subang I dan Lembah Subang II yang diseliakan oleh KPKT.

"Saya berharap Kerajaan Negeri Selangor ambil serius kerana masalah ini kerap berulang dan boleh dikatakan berlaku hampir setiap tahun bagaikan satu 'pesta' tiada air," katanya.



ZURaida KAMARUDDIN



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Kosmo
Tajuk Berita	:	Bayar gaji berdasarkan prestasi
Muka Surat	:	47

Bayar gaji berdasarkan prestasi

Oleh MUHAMMAD HELMEE RAMLI

PEMILIK baru Kelantan, Norizam Tukiman melaungkan amaran selepas kecewa menyaksikan aksi longai barisan pemain The Red Warriors (TRW) selepas seri tanpa jaringan dengan Selangor 2 pada aksi Liga Premier di Stadium Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) kelmarin.

Beliau yang hadir menyaksikan perlawanan itu tidak menolak kemungkinan akan membayar gaji setiap pemain TRW berdasarkan prestasi semasa sekali gus mampu menghadirkan gerun dalam kem pasukan itu.

"Saya tidak janji apa-apa sebelum perlawanan. Saya boleh ibaratkan jika tampil aksi lebih bagus, mereka layak dapat Ferrari atau Porsche. Sekiranya pemain tidak jaringkan gol, mungkin saya kurangkan gaji.

"Sebenarnya ia sesuatu yang logik kerana pemain dibayar gaji berpuluhan ribu, sudah tentu saya harapkan persembahan yang bagus. Secara jujur, saya lihat pemain import seperti tidak layak dibayar gaji mahal.

"Saya akan berbincang dengan orang yang lebih arif mengenai kontrak. Jika boleh diubah, saya akan ubah. Sebagai contoh, gaji pemain RM50,000, namun mungkin dibayar RM20,000 sahaja jika prestasi tidak memuaskan," katanya.

Sementara itu, ketua jurulatih Kelantan, Yusri Che Lah mengakui bertanggungjawab atas kegagalan menghadiahkan keme-



PEMAIN import, Felix Chidi Odili (kanan) cuba melepasi pemain Selangor 2, Muhammad Iqmal Ramli pada aksi Liga Premier di Stadium MBPJ, Petaling Jaya kelmarin. - MUHAMAD IQBAL ROSLI

nangan pertama kepada pemilik baru pasukan itu.

TRW terpaksa berpuas hati dengan satu mata meskipun

menentang Selangor 2 yang beraksi dengan 10 pemain selepas mensia-siakan deretan peluang termasuk satu sepakan penalti.

"Saya minta maaf dengan apa yang berlaku. Saya harap pemain ambil iktibar menjelang perlawanan akan datang," jelasnya.



KERATAN AKHBAR
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Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Harapan kepada LRA Langat 2
Muka Surat	:	2

Harapan kepada LRA Langat 2

AWER akui krisis bekalan air tidak bertambah serius jika LRA Langat 2 beroperasi penuh

Oleh KHAIRIL ANWAR MOHD AMIN

SHAH ALAM



Pembinaan Loji Rawatan Air Langat 2 bernilai RM4 billion dijangka berupaya membekalkan air bersih dan terawat kepada kira-kira 1.87 juta pengguna.

I su gangguan bekalan air tidak berjadual di Lembah Klang yang semakin kerap berlaku mungkin tidak serius dan mampu dibendung sekiranya Loji Rawatan Air (LRA) Langat 2 dapat beroperasi sepenuhnya ketika ini.

Presiden Persatuan Penyelidikan Air dan Tenaga Malaysia (AWER), S Piarapakaran berkata, apabila Sungai Selangor yang menjadi sumber air kepada penduduk Lembah Klang tercemar, penyaluran berlaku dari LRA sungai itu terpaksa dihentikan susulan operasi remediasi kawasan terkesan.

Menurutnya, sebaik sahaja operasi remediasi itu dilaksanakan serta-merta, lebih 60 peratus daripada penduduk sekitar Lembah Klang berdepan gangguan bekalan air kerana margin simpanan air di kawasan itu hanya sekitar tiga hingga lima peratus dan tidak cukup menampung kegunaan pada waktu kecemasan.

"Saya percaya cerita bérbeza

akan dialami penduduk Lembah Klang sekiranya LRA Langat 2 dapat beroperasi sepenuhnya ketika ini kerana operasi loji sokongan itu pastinya mengurangkan impak gangguan kepada penduduk daripada 60 peratus kepada 30 peratus.

"Ketika ini, operasi LRA

Langat 2 hanya beroperasi 80

peratus apabila pemasangan

paip penyambungan bekalan air

ke kawasan penting akan siap

sepenuhnya pada tahun 2021

hingga 2022."

"Menurutnya, kelewatannya

juga menyebabkan ia ditunda ke ta-

hun 2021 dan 2022," katanya

ketika dihubungi *Sinar Harian*

di sini semalam.

"Ketika ini, LRA Sungai Selangor adalah antara loji terbesar yang menyalurkan 60 peratus air kepada penduduk sekitar Selangor dan apabila sungainya terjejas, banyak kawasan akan terlibat dengan gangguan bekalan air.

"LRA Langat 2 sememangnya sudah hampir siap tetapi sistem paip untuk menyalurkan air bersih belum disediakan

panan air perlu ditingkatkan kepada 15 peratus sekurang-kurangnya bagi menampung air untuk penduduk pada waktu kecemasan.

Kata beliau, margin simpanan yang banyak membolehkan air disalurkan dengan segera kepada pengguna dan proses pemuliharaan akan berjalan dengan segera.

Bagi penyelesaian jangka masa panjang pula, Piarapakaran menggesa kerajaan negeri Selangor dan Pusat memberi fokus kepada usaha mengurangkan kadar air tidak berhasil (NRW) kepada para maksimum.

Menurutnya, kadar NRW di Lembah Klang sebanyak 30 peratus adalah tiga kali ganda lebih tinggi daripada kadar NRW di Tokyo, Jepun.

"Jika kita dapat kurangkan lebih banyak kadar NRW, pendapatan kerajaan akan meningkat kerana bekalan air yang tidak 'hilang' itu bertukar menjadi duit.

"Dari situ, kerajaan akan mempunyai peruntukan ke-wangan yang diperlukan

bagi menambah baik sistem paip," katanya.

Sebelum ini, media melaporkan fasa pertama LRA Langat 2 yang dijangka siap sepenuhnya menjelang akhir tahun 2022 bakal memberi manfaat air bersih dan terawat kepada kira-kira 1.87 juta pengguna.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Pengurusan Aset Air Berhad (PAAB), Abdul Hadi Ali berkata, kemajuan keseluruhan projek LAR Langat 2 sudah 80.33 peratus siap setakat 31 Disember 2019.

Katanya, PAAB bertanggungjawab membina bangunan LRA Langat 2 yang merangkumi 23 pakej membabitkan kawasan termasuk Hulu Langat, Cheras, Sungai Besi, Bukit Jali, Petaling Jaya, Bandar Kinrara, Bukit Dengkil, Ampang serta Keramat AU3.

"Projek LRA Langat 2 ini adalah projek pembangunan bekalan air terbesar di Asia Tenggara yang mula dibina pada Mac 2014 dan berupaya membekalkan keperluan 1,130 juta liter air sehari (MLD) kepada penduduk di Lembah Klang.

"Kerajaan Persekutuan ber-setuju membina LRA Langat 2 dengan kos RM4 bilion bagi menampung keperluan dan permintaan tinggi bekalan air di Lembah Klang berbanding peruntukan RM3.7 bilion sebelum ini," katanya.



S PIARAPAKARAN



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	'Tak guna dapat air percuma jika bekalan asyik putus'
Muka Surat	:	2

'Tak guna dapat air percuma jika bekalan asyik putus'

SHAH ALAM - Program pemberian air percuma secara bersasar kerajaan negeri Selangor kepada kira-kira 180,000 penduduk dilihat tidak mencapai matlamat ekoran kekerapan gangguan air yang tidak berkesudahan.

Ketua Penerangan Barisan Nasional (BN) Selangor, Isham Jalil berkata, jika bekalan air terputus seramai lima juta penduduk termasuk 180,000 rakyat yang mendapat air percuma akan terkesan.

"Apa guna kita mendapat air percuma jika (bekalan) air asyik putus?

"Saya melihat program pemberian air percuma bersasar itu hanya benar-benar bermanfaat jika kerajaan negeri

menangani masalah terputus bekalan air yang kerap berlaku di Selangor ini," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* semalam.

Isham berkata, isu bekalan air yang perlu diselesaikan kerajaan negeri ialah penguatkuasaan undang-undang berkenaan pencemaran sungai daripada kilang haram atau premis serta pihak-pihak ingkar yang lain.

"Di negara maju dan negeri lain, jika satu sumber air mentah tercemar, pembekal air akan ada sumber air untuk *back up*.

"Masalahnya di Selangor, ia tidak berlaku di mana kapasiti rizab loji pemprosesan air bersih amat nipis berbanding negeri lain," kata beliau.



KERATAN AKHBAR		
7 September 2020		
Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	KPKT kaji kelompongan undang-undang
Muka Surat	:	3

KPKT kaji kelompongan undang-undang

ALOR SETAR - Kelompongan undang-undang di bawah Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) akan dikaji semula bagi membolehkan kerajaan tempatan mengambil tindakan penguatkuasaan terhadap pihak yang melakukan pencemaran alam.

Menterinya, Zuraida Kamaruddin berkata, isu pencemaran alam di bawah bidang kuasa Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air (KASA), manakala KPKT hanya berkaitan lesen serta kutipan cukai ke atas pengilang.

“Mengenai pencemaran alam, KASA yang memiliki kuasa untuk mengambil tindakan, manakala bidang kita (KPKT) adalah keluarkan lesen jika mereka ikut syarat dan membayar lesen, cukai serta sebagainya.

“Bagaimanapun, kita maklum ada kelompongan dari segi undang-undang untuk kerajaan tempatan mengambil tindakan kepada pengilang,” katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas kunjungan hormat ke atas Menteri Besar Kedah, Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor di Wisma Darul Aman di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Zuraida berkata, pihaknya akan mencadangkan satu usul menggubal undang-undang lebih tegas terhadap pengilang mengikut Akta Kerajaan Tempatan 1976 (Akta 171).

Berhubung kes pencemaran di Selangor, Zuraida berkata, ia harus diketengahkan susulan masalah pencemaran sungai dari kilang kerap terjadi sehingga menyusahkan rakyat.

“Kita berharap kerajaan negeri Selangor ambil serius perkara itu memandangkan masalah air di negeri berkenaan seperti satu pesta menyukarkan rakyat. Ia memerlukan penyelesaian holistik di semua peringkat,” katanya.

Beliau mengulas mengenai tindakan yang boleh diambil KPKT susulan pencemaran alam hingga menyebabkan masalah air di Selangor.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Umno desak pinda akta
Muka Surat	:	3

UMNO desak pinda akta

Sungai dan sumber air tercemar akibat tindakan pihak tidak bertanggungjawab

Oleh NURHIDAYAH HAIROM

SHAH ALAM

UMNO mendesak kerajaan menggubal undang-undang baharu atau meminda Akta Kualiti Alam Sekitar 1974 bagi menangani isu pencemaran sungai. Presidennya, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, kesalahan berulang yang dilakukan pihak tidak bertanggungjawab menyebabkan sumber bekalan air tercemar dan ia tidak boleh diterima sama sekali.

Menurutnya, kejadian berkenaan merupakan suatu sabotaj bekalan air negara dan jelas memberikan mesej kepada kerajaan negeri Selangor khususnya dan kerajaan Persekutuan amnya bahawa undang-undang sedia ada tidak memadai.

"Pindaan akta atau undang-undang baharu perlu merangkumi denda dan kompaun yang lebih tinggi iaitu 10 kali ganda daripada kos pembersihan pencemaran air sungai tercemar."

"Pemilik premis atau syarikat termasuk Lembaga Pengarah dan pengurusan syarikat perlu dikenakan hukuman penjara mandatori dan sebatan kerana sabotaj bekalan air negara."



AHMAD ZAHID

Pencemaran sungai ditafsir sebagai sabotaj bekalan air negara dan menjelaskan keperluan atas rakyat.

"Selain itu, lesen perniagaan syarikat berkaitan (harus) dibatalkan dan pemilik premis atau pemilik syarikat perniagaan termasuk lembaga pengarah dan pengurusan syarikat disenarai hitam daripada menjalankan sebarang aktiviti perniagaan bagi tempoh sekurang-kurangnya 10 tahun," kata beliau dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Ahmad Zahid berkata, penahanan dan pendakwaan yang dilakukan oleh pihak berkuasa di bawah Seksyen 430 Akta Kanun Kesyakian melibatkan pemilik premis yang disyaki melepaskan bahan pelarut ke dalam Sungai Gong yang mengalir ke Sungai Sembah adalah sesuatu yang wajar.

Ujarnya, UMNO juga menggesa pihak

berkuasa mendakwa pemilik premis atau syarikat serta lembaga pengarah dan pengurusan syarikat tersebut di bawah Seksyen 121 Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air 2006 yang jika didapati bersalah mencemarkan sistem bekalan air boleh dike-nakan hukuman mati atau penjara sehingga 20 tahun dan sebatan.

"Pemilik premis atau syarikat serta lembaga pengarah dan pengurusan syarikat berkenaan perlu disiasat di bawah Akta Keselamatan Keselamatan (Langkah-Langkah Khas) 2012 (SOSMA) dan tindakan tegas perlu diambil kerana mensabotaj serta mencemarkan sungai di Selangor," katanya.

Sejak Khamis lalu, sebanyak 1,292 kawasan di tujuh daerah sekitar Lembah Klang mengalami gangguan bekalan air tidak berjadual susulan pencemaran di Sungai Selangor, menjelaskan kira-kira lima juta pengguna.





KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	2 ADUN Bebas Kedah sah sertai Bersatu
Muka Surat	:	8

2 ADUN Bebas Kedah sah sertai Bersatu

ALOR SETAR - Dua Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Bebas dari Lunas dan Sidam mengisyaratkan menyertai Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu).

Kedua-dua ADUN berkenaan iaitu Azman Nasrudin (Lunas) dan Dr Robert Ling Kui Ee (Sidam) mengumumkan pendirian mereka pada majlis makan malam Penggerak Komuniti Negara (PKN) di sini malam kelmarin.

Pada majlis itu, Azman turut menyerahkan borang keahlian Ber-

satu bagi pihak PKN negeri kepada Ketua Badan Pimpinan Bersatu Kedah Datuk Mohd Suhaimi Abdullah dan disaksikan bekas Timbalan Presiden PKR, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali serta bekas Naib Presiden PKR, Zuraida Kamaluddin yang pada 22 Ogos lalu mengumumkan secara rasmi menganggotai Bersatu.

Pada 12 Mei lalu, Azman dan Robert mengumumkan keluar daripada PKR untuk menjadi wakil rakyat Bebas dan menyatakan so-

kongan kepada kerajaan Perikatan Nasional (PN) di bawah pimpinan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Azman yang juga Pengurus PKN Kedah berkata, lebih ramai ahli PKN negeri dan bukan Melayu akan menyertai Bersatu susulan pengumuman Muhyiddin yang juga presiden parti untuk mewujudkan sayap baru bagi membolehkan ahli bersekutu daripada golongan bukan Melayu dan bukan bumiputera bersama-sama dalam Bersatu.



Azman (tengah) menyerahkan borang keahlian Bersatu kepada Suhaimi (kiri) sambil diperhatikan Mohamed Azmin dan Zuraida pada Majlis Makan Malam PKN Kedah di MBAS malam kelmarin.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Bekalan air tidak patut dicemari dengan mudah
Muka Surat	:	16

Bekalan air tidak patut dicemari dengan mudah



ANALISIS
MUKA 16

ONG BOON TECK

Air adalah sumber alam yang amat penting kepada kehidupan manusia. Tidak kiralah ia digunakan untuk diminum ataupun cucian, aktiviti sehari-hari kita pastinya bermasalah sekiranya bekalan air terputus.

Masalah gangguan bekalan air susulan pencemaran sumber air mentah di Sungai Selangor beberapa hari lalu kembali berulang menghantui pengguna yang terjejas.

Ini berikutnya empat Loji Rawatan Air (LRA) Sungai Selangor Fasa 1, Fasa 2, Fasa 3 dan Rantau Panjang dihenti tugas akibat pencemaran yang dilakukan oleh sebuah kilang membaiki jentera berat yang terletak di Jalan Batu Arang, Rawang, Selangor.

Bahan tercemar itu dibuang ke Sungai Gong yang mengalir ke Sungai Sembah yang merupakan anak sungai utama Sungai Selangor di mana LRA Rantau Panjang terletak.

Ia sekali gus menjelaskan 1,292 kawasan di sekitar kawasan Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor membabitkan 1.2 juta akaun pengguna terputus bekalan air serta-merta.

Krisis air yang berlarutan selama tiga hingga empat hari lalu mendahului pihak pengendali bekalan air iaitu Syarikat Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) seolah-olah tidak memandang serius mengenai tahap keselamatan dan penjagaan bekalan air kepada pengguna.

Walaupun pengusaha kilang berkenaan telah dibawa ke muka peng-

adilan, namun ia belum cukup memberikan jaminan kepada kita bahawa kejadian seperti itu tidak akan berlaku lagi.

Apa yang mendukacitakan, syarikat yang dikendalikan oleh empat beradik itu adalah pesalah berulang apabila telah didenda RM60,000 untuk kesalahan sama beberapa bulan yang lalu.

Daripada mengelakkan sungai terus tercemar sehingga menyebabkan bekalan air bersih turut terjejas, sudah sampai masanya kerajaan perlu bertindak dengan lebih tegas lagi tanpa tolak ansur.

Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man baru-baru ini berjanji tindakan penyuatuasaan pelbagai agensi negeri dan Pusat sedang berjalan.

Adalah diharapkan peruntukan undang-undang sedia ada juga diubah agar hukuman lebih berat dikenakan terhadap pesalah.

Saranan

Begitu juga jaminan yang diberikan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar bahawa beliau akan membawa cadangan meminda Akta Industri Perkhidmatan Air dan Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling bagi memperuntukkan hukuman lebih berat kepada pesalah.

Selain saranan dan cadangan daripada kedua-dua Menteri itu, bekas Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN), Charles Santiago mencadangkan agar sebuah badan khas ditubuhkan bagi melindungi sungai di negara kita daripada terus tercemar.

Katanya, badan itu perlu mewujudkan kawasan penampungan seluas 300 hingga 400 meter di sekitar sungai dan tiada lagi kegiatan perniagaan

gaan boleh dilakukan di situ.

Beliau turut menggesa kerajaan menubuhkan Lembaga Perlindungan Sungai Negara dengan mewujudkan zon penampungan seluas 300 hingga 400 meter.

Dengan badan khas itu, beliau berharap polis dan badan penguasa lain boleh ditugaskan untuk memantau sesbuah kawasan dengan bantuan kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) dan teknologi lain.

Kita turut mengalu-alukan keadaan Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari bahawa kerajaan negeri Selangor akan memindahkan Enakmen Lembaga Urus Air Selangor 1999 bagi menaikkan denda kepada pesalah yang mencemar sumber air di negeri itu.

Katanya, kerajaan negeri Selangor berhasrat menaikkan hukuman denda maksimum daripada RM500,000 kepada RM1 juta terhadap individu atau premis yang mencemar sumber air di negeri itu.

Bagi pihak Air Selangor pula, ia sepatutnya merangka perancangan lebih tersusun agar tidak semestinya menutup LRA ketika berlaku pencemaran sehingga pengguna terputus bekalan air.

Pengguna sudah serik kerana setiap kali berlaku pencemaran, LRA pastinya ditutup selama beberapa hari.

Sumber air amat diperlukan setiap orang dan merupakan sumber penting dan tidaklah keterlaluan jika ia dikategorikan sebagai keselamatan negara.

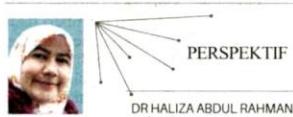
Mana-mana pihak yang mencemarinya bolehlah disamanan seperti pengkhianatan negara dan seharusnya dihukum berat.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Air oh air...
Muka Surat	:	18

Air oh air...



PERSPEKTIF
DR HALIZA ABDUL RAHMAN

Jemu dan bosan mendengar satu demi satu isu masalah bekalan air berlaku. Terkini, seramai lima juta pengguna di 1,292 kawasan di Lembah Klang mengalami gangguan bekalan air tidak berjadual berikutan penutupan sementara loji Rawatan Air (LRA) Sungai Selangor Fasa 1, 2 dan 3 dan LRA Rantau Panjang berikutan pencemaran air mentah di Sungai Gong.

LRA hanya boleh beroperasi semula jika tahap pencemaran berada pada tahap sifat ton tiga kali berturut-turut.

Malangnya LRA tidak boleh merawat bahan kimia pencemar kerana kosnya tinggi, selain boleh menyebabkan pengguna dalam keadaan berisiko dari segi kesihatan terutama kanak-kanak, warga emas dan mereka yang menghidap penyakit tertentu. Justeru, pilihan terbaik adalah dengan menutup sementara operasi LRA tersebut.

Menurut Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Seri Ir Zaini Ujang, hujan yang turun diharap dapat membawa lepasan sisa kimia tersebut ke hilir sungai pada kadar yang lebih cepat seterusnya memulihkan bekalan air yang terjejas.

Menurut Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, usaha menghilangkan kesan pencemaran sumber air giat dilaksanakan tanpa henti bagi memastikan air yang bersih dan selamat dapat dibekalkan pada kadar segera.

Sementara itu, pengguna yang terjejas dengan penutupan LRA terabit telah diagihkan dengan 78 lori tangki, 22 lori tangki jumbo, 54 tangki statik, 18 pusat khidmat setempat serta lapan pili air awam selain 23,000 botol air setiap satu yang mengandungi 5 liter air minuman.

Syarikat dan industri yang mengendalikan bisnes jutaan ringgit sehari turut terjejas. Operasi perniagaan makanan di sekitar Lembah Klang turut tergендala susulan pemilik premis perniagaan terpaksa mengambil bekalan air di kawasan yang tidak terjejas selain mengangkat berulang kali daripada lori tangki.

Ekoran pencemaran yang berlaku, sebuah kilang disita selama dua minggu dan dikenakan kompaun serta-merta selepas diperdayai melepaskan bahan pelarut ke dalam sungai tersebut yang mengalir ke Sungai Sembah iaitu antara sungai utama bagi Sungai Selangor.

Tahun lepas kilang sama telah dikenakan kompaun berjumlah RM60,000

akibat kesalahan yang sama.

Persoalannya mengapa kilang sama mengulangi tindakan tidak beretika ini tanpa rasa bersalah? Adakah kerana kelemahan dari aspek penguatkuasaan, pemantauan atau tindakan perundangan yang seolah-olah ‘lemau’ kerana premis yang sama hanya dikenakan denda tanpa didakwa di mahkamah?

Menurut Presiden Persatuan Pencinta Alam Malaysia (MNS), Profesor Dr Ahmad Ismail, kerajaan perlu mengambil langkah segera bagi mengelakkan pencemaran sungai dan menjelaskan bekalan air kepada jutaan pengguna.

Peraturan ketat seperti pemantauan buangan sisa industri dan sampah haram atau tidak mengikut peraturan mesti dilaksanakan. Selain itu, peraturan zon penanaman juga harus diperkenalkan bagi semua sungai dari hulu ke hilir.

PBT juga harus melihat pelan pembangunan di kawasan masing-masing sebelum meluluskan sebuah projek atau kegiatan bagi mengelakkan sumber air tercemar hingga menjelaskan pengguna.

Pada masa sama, pihak berkuasa juga mesti memeriksa status kilang di seluruh negara dengan menutup premis haram dan mengenal pasti sungai yang kritikal dari segi pencemaran.

Dalam pada itu, Presiden Persatuan Penyelidikan Air dan Tenaga Malaysia (AWER), S Pirapakaran mencadangkan JAS mewujudkan satu sistem komprehensif, antaranya menyenaraikan pembeli bahan kimia bagi memudahkan rujukan apabila berlaku pencemaran sungai. Malangnya, sehingga kini sistem itu belum diwujudkan.

Cadangan kerajaan Selangor untuk menaikkan jumlah kompaun daripada RM500,000 kepada RM1 juta juga amat dialukan.

Namun, jumlah kompaun yang tinggi jika tidak diikuti dengan kesedaran dan etika yang tinggi dalam kalangan premis beroperasi serta masyarakat pasinya tidak akan berkesan.

Satu langkah konkret diperlukan untuk meredakan isu ini!

Pengguna sudah bosan dengan pelbagai alasan yang diberikan oleh pihak berkuasa setiap kali berlakunya pencemaran sungai yang menjelaskan LRA.

Apakah perlu adalah tindakan tegas dan proaktif dari aspek penguatkuasaan, pemantauan dan perundangan. Janganlah sekadar berjanji melakukan pelbagai tindakan, namun sunyi sepi selepas LRA kembali beroperasi.

* Profesor Madya Dr Haliza Abdul Rahman ialah Ketua Laboratori Kesejahteraan dan Kesehatan Sosial Bahagian Pengajian Sains Sosial Universiti Putra Malaysia



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	Sinar Harian
Tajuk Berita	:	Fokus pelaburan bernilai tinggi
Muka Surat	:	27

Fokus pelaburan bernilai tinggi

FOTO: BERNAMA

Tumpuan perlu ditekankan kepada industri berteknologi tinggi untuk sedia pekerjaan berkualiti

KANGAR

Kerajaan Pusat berharap kerajaan negeri Perlis lebih memberi tumpuan kepada pelaburan bernilai tinggi dan industri berteknologi tinggi bagi mengurangkan kebergantungan terhadap pekerja asing.

Menteri Kanan merangkap Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali berkata, sudah tiba masanya kerajaan Perlis beralih kepada industri berteknologi tinggi kerana ia mampu membawa peluang pekerjaan berkualiti kepada rakyat.

"Kami di peringkat kerajaan Persekutuan kini sedang memberi fokus kepada usaha meningkatkan kemahiran tenaga kerja menerusi program *reskilling* dan *upskilling* agar mereka dapat penuhi permintaan industri."

"Sekarang ini, kita telah bergerak ke arah Revolusi Industri 4.0, industri automasi, robotik dan sebagainya."

"Malah kita juga menggalakkan Industri Kecil dan Sederhana (IKS) mengadaptasikan teknologi baharu supaya mereka dapat meningkatkan produktiviti dan pengeluaran," katanya ketika melakukan kunjungan hormat kepada Menteri Besar Perlis, Datuk Seri Azlan Man di Kompleks Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) dekat sini kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia adalah sebahagian daripada rantaian bekalan dunia dan oleh itu, negara perlu segera memenuhi permintaan industri dengan mengadaptasikan teknologi baharu agar tidak ketinggalan ke belakang.



Menurut Mohamed Azmin, rakyat Perlis mempunyai potensi besar sekiranya mereka diberi sokongan dan dilau yakin Perlis mampu mencul sebagai salah sebuah negeri yang penting dalam sumbangan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) negara ini satu hari logi-teknologi baharu agar tidak ketinggalan ke belakang.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Mohamed Azmin meminta kerajaan Selangor bertindak lebih tegas terhadap mana-mana pihak menyebabkan pencemaran sungai hingga menjelaskan pengguna domestik air di negeri itu.

"Pengalaman saya ketika menjadi Menteri Besar Selangor (2014-2018). - Bernama

Mohamed Azmin Ali mendengar taklimat daripada Pengurus Alam Sekitar Fermpro Sdn Bhd, Khairul Akhbar Ahmad Zabidi (kanan) ketika mengadakan lawatan ke Kilang Fermpro Sdn Bhd di Jalan Bukit Keteri, Kawasan Industri Cuping di Kangar kelmarin.

ngor sebelum ini adalah saya telah mengambil tindakan tegas bukan hanya menutup kilang-kilang yang berada di tebing sungai (kilang haram) tapi turut mengheret pesalah ke mahkamah kerana tindakan tidak bertanggungjawab mereka," katanya yang pernah menjadi Menteri Besar Selangor (2014-2018). - Bernama



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	Hip to be square
Muka Surat	:	1



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	Dry taps force residents to opt for staycations
Muka Surat	:	2

Dry taps force residents to opt for staycations

By BAVANI M. and SHALINI
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RESIDENTS in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor found themselves trapped in a predicament when dry taps forced them to leave Valley went dry on Thursday.

To deal with the suddenness of the situation due to a water cut in Sunway Selangor, some people opted for staycations while others chose to stay at hotels close to home.

Many made the spur-of-the-moment decision on Friday evening when they realized how long it would take at least four days for water supply to resume.

"We were shocked to find that the water cut might last four days. What were we supposed to do during that time?" Purching resident M. Vilkenandran said.

"Our tanks were empty and most of the restaurants as well as coffee shops in our neighborhood were closed."

"I was sceptical about the cleanliness of the eateries that were open."

"So my wife and I decided to get out of town for the weekend and



A hotel in Klang was fully booked during the water cut. Locals checked in after hearing that the water problem would last four days.

enjoy ourselves, away from the water situation stress.

"We decided on Janda Baik in Bentong because we wanted something that was far and close to nature where water was not an issue."

Taman Permai, Gombak resi-

dent N. Jayalakshmi, 30, said her family headed to Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan to escape the Jayalakshmi, who was disrupted.

Jayalakshmi, who stays with her parents, sister and two-year-old son, said they ran out of water by the second day of the water cut.

"We could not find bottled water as shops had run out of stock."

I have aged parents and there was no one to help me carry milk bottles and other necessities,"

she said, elaborating that the situation forced the family to make an

impromptu decision for a weekend getaway.

"We managed to book two reasonably priced hotel rooms, so we are staying here and planned vacation," she added.

Sharmila Store, who lives in a condominium in Petaling Jaya Heights with her daughter, decided to book a room in a nearby hotel to "get away".

"The hotel was already fully booked on Friday and on Saturday morning we still had no water in our house," she said.

"But I was lucky to get a room on Saturday. Our taps were completely dried up and we had to buy food."

"I did not want to buy outside food."

"I did not want to buy outside food."



Viknendran and his wife went to Janda Baik to escape the stress of having to deal with dry taps.



Saraswathi looking after her granddaughter while her children check the family into a hotel.

ents home in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

"I share a condominium with some friends and we were struggling with dry taps, so I decided to visit my grandmother," she said.

Similarly, Kala Devi, an insurance agent from Bangsar, decided to stay with her friend over the weekend at her friend's place in Bentong to escape the stress.

"I can deal with it if there is no

electricity but it is just too stressful when there is no water," added Kala.

Many of those who left Klang Valley to escape the water woes, decided to stay away until Sunday morning when they heard that water had been restored in their homes.

"My neighbour informed me that water was restored on Saturday evening but I am quite happy to be taking this break," added Viknendran.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	500 objections over golf course rezoning proposal
Muka Surat	:	4

500 objections over golf course rezoning proposal

MORE than 500 objections were received over a proposed residential development at a private golf course in Section U9, Shah Alam.

They were submitted online by stakeholders after learning about the matter in the Shah Alam Local Draft Plan 2035 which has been on display at all Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) offices since the end of July.

The public display to gather feedback for the draft plan, which was originally scheduled to end on Aug 26, has been extended until Sept 26.

In the draft plan, the 60.7ha golf course has been proposed to be

rezoned for development.

"This area is more than just a golf course as it is actually a green lung that absorbs and filters rain, improves air quality and is also home to many species of flora and fauna," said Montereza Residents Association (MRA) president KS Ng in a statement.

Residents say the course is also the last remaining green landscape in Section U9.

"We urge those responsible to stop the rezoning," said Ng, adding that an action committee called "Keep it Green" had been formed to address the issue.

Shah Alam mayor Datuk Haris Kasim said the golf course was pri-

vately owned and applications had been received for its rezoning.

"So far, the most number of objections received over the draft plan are for this proposal.

"We will tabulate all the objections when the public viewing period ends on Sept 26.

"After that, a dialogue will be held with the developer, residents who objected and other parties involved, to discuss the objections," he said.

Haris added that the results from the dialogue would be compiled and sent to the state government where a decision about the rezoning would be made.

“

After the objections are tabulated, a dialogue will be held between all relevant parties, to discuss the objections.

Datuk Haris
Kasim



”



KERATAN AKHBAR		
7 September 2020		
Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	COUNCIL MATTERS
Muka Surat	:	4

COUNCIL MATTERS

- Petaling Jaya City Council will continue its spring-clean programme every Saturday and Sunday until Sept 13. Beverage containers, furniture and electronics items will be collected and items are to be placed in front of the house before 10am. For a list of the locations, visit fb.com/petalingjaya-citycouncil or call 03-7954 1140 (Marini).
- Subang Jaya Municipal Council will prune 200 trees along Persiaran Kewajipan from its junction with Damansara-Puchong Expressway in USJ 21 until the exit to Kesar Highway near The Summit USJ, from now until Sept 14. One lane will be closed and motorists are advised to slow down when passing the area.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	High alert for high tide on Sept 19 and 20
Muka Surat	:	4

High alert for high tide on Sept 19 and 20

Stories by BRENDA CH'NG
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THE year-end high tide phenomenon is expected to hit Selangor's shores over seven days in September, October and November.

Measuring almost 6m, the high tide is forecast to hit coastlines along the Klang, Kuala Langat, Sepang, Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam districts.

It is due to happen on Sept 19 and 20 at 7.16am and 7.53am with a forecast height of 5.7m and 5.6m respectively.

On Oct 17, 18 and 19, the high tide will hit at 6.11am, 7.50am and 7.27am and reach a height of 5.7m, 5.8m and 5.7m respectively.

The high tide on Nov 15 and 16 will strike at 5.44am and 6.25am respectively and reach a height of 5.6m on both days.

"If there is heavy rain and strong winds on those days, the risk of flooding will increase," said the Smart Selangor Command Centre (SSCC) in a statement.

In light of this, the public is advised to refrain from having any activities on the beach or near the coastline.

Those living near the coastline are advised to follow the authorities' instructions during an emergency.

In case of floods, several halls and schools near the affected areas have been identified to shelter victims.

For Sepang, the flood relief centre will be at Maahad Integrasi Tahfiz Selangor while in Kuala Langat, it will be at the Kampung Kelanang and Sri Kundang community halls.

In Klang, four premises have been identified, namely Kampung Sungai Serdang hall, SRA

Kampung Batu 4 Jalan Kapar, Pandamaran Sports Complex and MPK Port Klang community hall.

In Kuala Selangor, 10 premises have been prepped. They are Institut Pengurusan Peladang Tanjung Karang, SRJK (C) Pasir Penambang hall, SMK Seri Tanjong, SK Pasangan, SK Asam Jawa, Kamping Pasir Tuntong hall, Jeram hall, Kamping Sungai Sembilang hall, Sungai Buloh hall and SK Tambak Jawa.

In Sabak Bernam, the halls identified are Sri Sekinchan, Seri Bernam, Parit Baru and Sri Nakhoda.



PEJABAT SETIAUSAHA KERAJAAN NEGERI SELANGOR
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KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	Uncollected rubbish mars recreational spot
Muka Surat	:	4



WHAT A WASTE

Angry visitors call on MBPJ to clear rubbish around Astaka Sports Complex >4



Bags of rubbish left uncollected along Lorong Utara B near the Astaka Sports Complex in Petaling Jaya.



A rubbish bin with a gaping hole and still has the council's logo from its municipality days.

Story and photos by AIDA AHMAD
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HEAPS of uncollected rubbish, stagnant water, discarded plastic bottles as well as the stench that comes with it, are never-ending problems for those living near the Astaka Sports Complex in Petaling Jaya.

A food and beverage trader in the area said the bags of rubbish attracted pests like flies and rats.

He said he had to pay a lorry driver RM100 a month to clear rubbish outside the premises where his business was located.

"They won't clear the rubbish unless I pay them," he said.

In 2018, *StarMetro* reported that Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Bhd (KDEB) Waste Management Sdn Bhd would be taking over the solid waste management and general cleaning in areas under Petaling Jaya City Council's (MBPJ) jurisdiction.

Resident CK Chong said responsibility for keeping the area clean should not only lie with the city council but the public as well.

Uncollected rubbish mars recreational spot

Area around Astaka Sports Complex an unsightly mess caused by irresponsible folk

"I don't know why people indiscriminately throw plastic bottles, food wrappers and disposable containers everywhere around the field when there are rubbish bins nearby."

"There are also those who drink alcohol on the Astaka field and just throw the bottles and beer cans wherever they like," he said.

Another resident said MBPJ should ensure the rubbish bins were in good condition.

"There is an old bin with a

gaping hole on the side which has not been replaced," she said.

The side of the sports field that runs along the back of The Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and Federal Territories is also full of undergrowth and rubbish, with pools of stagnant water clearly visible, inviting mosquitoes to breed.

Walking along the path in the morning and evening was dangerous because of the mosquitoes, said Amy H.

"I worry if there are snakes

lurking about too, because we will not be able to see them in all the undergrowth," she added.

When alerted by *StarMetro*, MBPJ sent cleaning contractors to clear the waste on Friday afternoon.

A spokesman said the city council carried out daily scheduled clean-ups, where the KDEB contractors would manage the area along Lorong Utara B, while the contractors under MBPJ would do the cleaning at the sports field.



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	Factory owner's son says they will cooperate over pollution issue
Muka Surat	:	7

Factory owner's son says they will cooperate over pollution issue

By ALLISON LAI
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PETALING JAYA: The son of one of the factory owners, who were arrested in connection with the odour pollution incident in the Sungai Gong industrial area in Rawang, say they will cooperate fully with the authorities.

The man, identified as Yip Siew Thong, denied that his father's company was fined for discharging

effluents into the river.

"It is true that my father's company was fined by the authorities recently.

"However, it has got nothing to do with the discharge of the effluents into the river but on other matters such as the absence of proper training for the company staff and proper inventory.

"We will give our full assistance to the ongoing investigation and have no intention to conceal any

information," he said during an interview with TV3.

The report also quoted Yip as saying that the family business was involved in storekeeping construction machinery and not processing or producing chemicals.

The waste, he said, was disposed of according to the stipulated procedures.

Yip also asked the public to let the police conduct a thorough and fair

investigation and to stop condemning his family.

He said they had lodged a report at the Gombak police station after receiving threats.

On Friday, four brothers, aged between 50 and 60, were arrested in connection with the odour pollution incident in Sungai Gong.

They have been remanded until Thursday to assist in investigations.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri

Amirudin Shari said the factory suspected of being the source of the odour pollution, had been sealed and compounded.

Due to the pollution, a total of 1,292 areas in the Klang Valley, including Petaling, Klang/Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor, Hulu Selangor, Gombak and Kuala Langat, involving nearly 1.2 million consumer accounts, have been affected by the unscheduled water cut.



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Star
Tajuk Berita	:	Water supply to 618 areas restored
Muka Surat	:	7

Water supply to 618 areas restored

Air Selangor to update latest status regularly on restoration to remaining places

KUALA LUMPUR: Water supply to almost 48% or 618 areas of the 1,292 sites hit by the unscheduled water supply disruption in seven regions in the Klang Valley has been fully restored.

Hulu Selangor recorded the highest water supply resumption so far at 94%, followed by Kuala Selangor (93.5%), Petaling (57%), Kuala Langat (50%), Kuala Lumpur (41%), Klang and Shah Alam (24%) and Gombak (11%).

This was stated by Air Selangor Sdn Bhd corporate communications head Elina Baseri in a statement.

She said restoration to the remaining 674 areas was still in the process.

Air Selangor hopes consumers who have received water supply will use it prudently to ensure the restoration process for the affected areas runs smoothly and according to schedule," she said.

Air Selangor will update the latest status of water supply from time to time through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the agency's website.

A pollution in Sungai Gong on Thursday led to a halt in the operations of four water treatment plants - Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2, 3 and Rantau Panjang.

This caused a major water cut in parts of the Klang Valley.

The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia has called for more effective law enforcement, including heavier penalties for offenders involved in water resources pollution.

"Recurring water contamination incidents indicate that the huge gaps in these laws have yet to be addressed," it said in a statement.

In Alor Setar, Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said the amendments to the Local Government Act would empower the local authorities to impose stricter action against factories responsible for causing pollution.

At present, she said enforcement against those found committing such offences fell under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Water Ministry through the Environment Department.

"The Housing and Local Government Ministry is responsible for issuing operating licences, in line with the jurisdiction of the local authorities.

"We are aware of the loopholes in the law.

"Therefore, (the amendment) will expand the power of the local councils in imposing stern action against the offenders," she told a press conference yesterday. — Bernama



Sheer joy: Children enjoying a shower after the water supply returned at their apartment in Kota Damansara, Selangor. — AZHAR MAHFUD/The Star



KERATAN AKHBAR 7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	Apathy unlimited
Muka Surat	:	2

Apathy unlimited

Water woes will keep happening
if we remain unresponsive

POLLUTION is a problem that refuses to go away because those who can stop it when they can do not. Polluters know this only too well. Apathy is a national enemy, but some of us wear it very proudly. We must bury it before it buries us. Take the case of the factory that discharged used engine oil, among others, into Sungai Selangor. The factory is allegedly a repeat offender (NST, Sept 6 — “What were enforcement officers doing?”). The owners were previously fined RM60,000 for a similar offence. This must be peanuts for them to do it again. Paltry, is what one expert described the compound imposed as. We agree. They must not be allowed to walk away so lightly. But polluters often do. Whenever such pollution becomes a national concern, authorities lament that laws are inadequate. Then a national chorus of ministers and regulators promises laws with better bark and harder bite. We have heard it all before. The French have a term: *déjà vu*. Welcome to *déjà vu à la Malaysia*.

By all means, go ahead and give the law a harder bite. Some of our laws do need that. Punish and perish should be the aim of the new laws. Contamination of a resource as vital as water is a

crime deserving punitive punishment, repeat offenders or not. Imprison the owners, directors and managers. Shut the factories down and do not allow them to come back to life in another guise. It is not uncommon for factories and restaurants to be shut down but see life again under another name. Regulators must see to it that this doesn't happen.

In the meanwhile, the authorities owe the nation an explanation as to why the full force of the Water Services Act 2006 was not applied on the owner who walked away with a RM60,000 compound. There is yet another explanation the authorities owe the people. After having imposed the compound, why wasn't the factory kept on the regulators' close watch? It appears that the regulators need regulating. The frequent lament by the regulators is that they do not have the manpower to regulate all that needs regulating. This is an aged excuse. Last year, there were 1.71 million civil servants. We shall not get into a debate as to who is and is not a civil servant. We leave that to analysts who slice and dice the civil service. Nomenclature isn't our mission. Taking the armed forces (152,957), police (128,536), and those involved in health (240,745) and education (523,226) out of the equation for obvious reasons, we are still left with 665,068 civil servants in “various categories”. Surely, many of them can be trained as regulators to boost the numbers. If we start now, the complaints from regulators may not be as shrill.

If you think pollution is peculiar to rivers and lakes, think again. Our land and air need regulating, too. Open burning and illegal landfills are a common sight. If this isn't enough, we were, not too long ago, even importing plastic refuse to be recycled. Let's be blunt. Malaysia cannot create wealth for its people by turning the country into the world's dumpsite. What such a policy says is this: pollution is okay. Well, it's not okay. Our law must make that clear. And those who enforce them must not only act, but must be seen to act.

We have
heard it all
before. The French
have a term: '*déjà vu*'. Welcome to
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KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	'POLLUTERS MUST CLEAN UP THE MESS'
Muka Surat	:	2



SUNGAI SELANGOR POLLUTION

'POLLUTERS MUST CLEAN UP THE MESS'

Criminologist, researcher want authorities to scrutinise pollution-enabling system

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A REVIEW of laws and standard operations are held accountable beside preventing more crimes recurring.

Criminologist and psychologist Associate Professor Greshma Aya Mat Gopalan from Sunway University's forensic science programme and her mother, Meogamal Gopalan, a former environmentalist, are commenting on the issue.

Offenders, they said, should be made to pay for the pollution they caused and the damage to the environment so that ecosystems can regenerate.

"There is a need for accountabilities to be held accountable, those who enabled the factory to operate," she said.

Although people may be able to survive for a little bit longer, persons who pollute will have organ failure by the third decade of their life," she said.

"For many, water is also the most important part of our body.

Water is also an important part of

calamity when the supply of clean water is cut off. In the white, it abruptly cut. Hospitals, schools, homes, all will be severely affected."

"The issues have been disrupted with the recent Covid-19 pandemic, and now, more than a year later, we still have to deal with them to beat," she said.

Gopalan and Meogamal called on the authorities to look at the environmental impact of industries.

This, they said, concerned a study on harm and costs to the environment - which has been done in other countries.

Environmental law violators, and environmentalists, can then be criminally persecuted.

"In the same time, it is important to take the helpline and investigate what sources are causing the pollution and what sources they need in the environment," she said.

For example, they said the enforcement agencies and factory owners were reported of polluting the environment.

They described the water pollution as "just one of a series of crimes, living thing dependent on water.

"Without water, we will die. Although people may be able to survive for a little bit longer, persons who pollute will have organ failure by the third decade of their life," she said.

"Based on section 22 (2)(b) of the Water Resources Act 2006 (Act 686),



A woman struggling to carry a water container in Taman Daging, Petaling Jaya yesterday. (left) The machinery maintenance factory in Rawang. (right)

offenders shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or both. Alternatively, under Section 22(2)(c), if the offenders will be liable to a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or to imprisonment for not more than one year.

Section 79 (1) of the Selangor Water Resources Enactment 1999 (Enactment No. 21/1999) could also be used to impose a fine of up to RM600,000 or to imprisonment for not more than one year.

Meogamal said the punishment for this offence is too lenient.

"The maximum fine of RM600,000 or to imprisonment for not more than one year is not enough," she said.

Gopalan and Meogamal said there should be environmental awareness programmes about the importance of water and the environment and water sources.

This should not only be a matter of educational syllabus, but a responsibility taken up by every person in the society.

"If protecting and caring for the environment is a priority for all schoolchildren, but adults continue to pollute and contaminate the environment, the longer they will pollute, the younger generation," she said.

"It is the culture of the Malaysian culture and we will fail to achieve the Sustainable Environment and Resource Management, clean water and sanitation," she said.

"Therefore, we should take all effect efforts to achieve SGD3 — good health and well-being. Instead of moving forward, we will move to move backwards," they said.

Sungai Selangor flowing Effluents From a machinery maintenance factory allegedly released into the river



KERATAN AKHBAR		
7 September 2020		
Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	'Amendment will expand local authorities' power'
Muka Surat	:	3

'Amendment will expand local authorities' power'

ALOR STAR: The amendment to the Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171) will give power to local authorities to take strict action against factories that cause pollution, said Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

She said at the moment, enforcement against those found committing such offences fell under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Water Ministry through the Department of Environment.

"The Housing and Local Government Ministry is responsible for issuing operating licences, in line with the jurisdiction of local authorities.

"We are aware of the loopholes in the law (Act 171).

"Therefore, (the amendment) will expand the power of local



Zuraida
Kamaruddin

authorities to take stern action against offenders," she told a press conference here yesterday.

She was asked to comment on whether her ministry could take stern action, including by revoking the operating licence of factories that have caused pollution, like what happened in Sungai Gong in Rawang, Selangor.

The river pollution on Thursday disrupted water supply to 1.2 million consumers in seven districts in the Klang Valley.

Four men had been arrested in connection with the pollu-

tion.

Selangor police chief Datuk Noor Azam Jamaludin said the suspects, who are owners of the factory that allegedly caused the pollution, had been remanded for six days. **Bernama**



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	Klang MP suggests setting up river monitoring agency
Muka Surat	:	3

Klang MP suggests setting up river monitoring agency

KUALA LUMPUR: A federal agency should be set up to monitor rivers, and put an end to water woes, said Klang member of parliament Charles Santiago yesterday.

He said the time had come for the government to think and act differently.

"We have had one too many water cuts from last year and the penalties imposed were like a slap on the wrist, and increasing the fine on errant companies is not a deterrent because of corruption.

"As such, the government must set up a National River Protection Authority immediately."

He said the proposed National River Protection Authority must create a buffer of 300 to 400m along rivers, where business activities should not be permitted.

"Police and other enforcement authorities could be used to supervise the place with the help of closed-circuit television cameras and other technologies."

The former National Water Ser-

vices Commission chairman said the government must also look at enacting laws with severe punishment for companies that encroach on the buffer zone.

"By doing so, rivers can be protected from being polluted with plastic, e-waste, chemicals, toxins, sewage and rubbish by errant companies. (And) in the process, it saves billions."

He said rivers and their buffer zones must be considered as national security zones.

On Thursday, Air Selangor had to stop the operations of the Sungai Selangor water treatment plants phase 1, 2, and 3, and the Rantau Panjang water treatment plant in Bestari Jaya due to industrial effluent pollution.

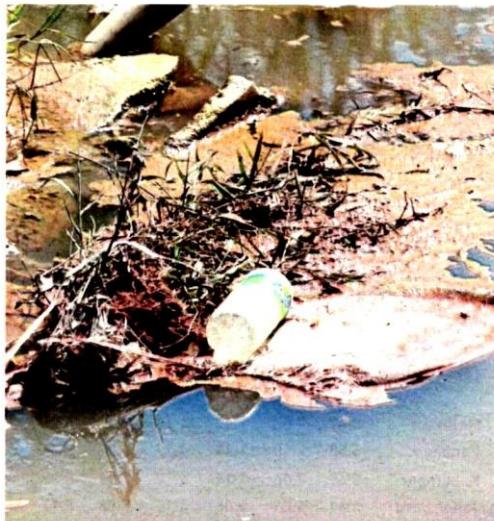
This caused a water supply disruption to more than households in the Klang Valley.

Water supply gradually resumed at noon on Saturday, and it is expected to be fully restored by 6am on Wednesday.



Police and other enforcement authorities could be used to supervise the place with the help of closed-circuit television cameras and other technologies.

CHARLES SANTIAGO
Klang MP



Rubbish thrown into Sungai Gong in Rawang, Selangor. Effluents, allegedly from a machinery maintenance factory, have caused several water treatment plants along the river to shut down. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI



KERATAN AKHBAR
7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	'ENHANCED DoE DATABASE CAN TACKLE WATER ISSUE'
Muka Surat	:	4

RIVER POLLUTION

'ENHANCED DoE DATABASE CAN TACKLE WATER ISSUE'

It allows authorities to trace pollutants at all stages of the chain, says water research outfit

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An enhanced database at the Department of Environment and technical solutions must be adopted by the relevant authorities.

This is to allow proactive enforcement against potential polluters rather than resorting to firefighting methods whenever a water pollution incident occurs.

Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia president S. Piarapakaran said the database would allow a faster response by the authorities to trace pollutants at all stages of the chain, not just by the end producers.

"The burden of protecting the environment lies with the federal government as state governments do not have sufficient allocation and technical expertise in this aspect."

"Local authorities' staff should be trained (in monitoring industries), including the types of waste they produce, with emphasis on rivers. It all boils down to the enforcement in determining whether we can keep a lid on pollution."

In this respect, he said the DoE played a crucial role in assisting the local authorities in protecting the nation's rivers.



Petaling Jaya City Council workers filling up a water tanker in Ampang yesterday. (Inset) S. Piarapakaran.
PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

Piarapakaran proposed that an enabling clause be included in the Environmental Quality Act 1974 to allow the affected parties, including domestic consumers and businesses, to claim compensation from such an incident.

He said such a clause would make the claims' processes simpler and effective as it could be delivered by the court, together with imposing penalties and clean-up costs on the culprits.

He said the association had proposed the idea to the then natural resources and environment minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar as the clause would allow people to claim damages without having a suit filed against the perpetrators, which would prove costly and took a long time.

Piarapakaran said the water disruption was made worse by

the Covid-19 pandemic as the public relied on uninterrupted supply to maintain good personal hygiene as a preventive measure against the virus.

"The industry sector, offices, hotels and restaurants were among those that had suffered losses, as well as the water supply company (Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd).

"Such an incident incurs additional costs including change in workers' shifts and a fleet of some 700 water tankers being deployed — assets that are used only during crisis time.

"If the (Environment and Water) ministry is serious about addressing this matter, it should consider including the enabler clause that could be tabled in the next parliamentary sitting and start enforcing it by January. It will be a strong deterrent (against irresponsible acts of polluting the environment).

"The company (behind the Sungai Selangor contamination) had committed the offence earlier during the Movement Control Order (MCO) and has repeated the offence.

"How many times did the operators manage to do this while not being caught prior to the MCO?"

Environmental Protection Society Malaysia president Nititi Nesadurai said the brazen act of polluting Sungai Selangor had made a mockery of environmental enforcers, who were expected to uphold the law

and regulations.

"What kind of an excuse is 'remaining stubborn' for 'operating again' and then doing nothing about it?

"If the local authorities had shut the factory down and sealed it after the first incident, all other potential polluters would have received the message. It would have scared them (from polluting).

"Instead, the fine was a mere pittance, which did not reflect the cost of the damage and inconvenience caused. And the factory resumed its operations."

He said it appeared that initiating suits against the culprits could be the best way to fully penalise the factory owners and regulatory authorities.

This, he said, would ensure that the polluters and those responsible for protecting the people behind environmental pollution would be on their toes.

He added that it would also serve as a reminder to office bearers to take their duties seriously.

Meanwhile, a Selayang Municipal Council spokesman said it would issue a statement today on the matter.

On Thursday, Air Selangor had halted operations at its Sungai Selangor Water Treatment Plant Phase 1, 2, and 3 and the Rantau Panjang Water Treatment Plant due to industrial effluent pollution.

Water supply is expected to be fully restored by 6am on Wednesday.



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	New Straits Times
Tajuk Berita	:	Fomca: Crisis shows reserve deficiency
Muka Surat	:	4

Fomca: Crisis shows reserve deficiency

'Water industry
must be
helmed by
qualified people'

>> From Page 4

KUALA LUMPUR: As far as Klang Valley's water woes are concerned, history is repeating itself.

It is always the same old story — some irresponsible party dumps effluents into raw water sources and millions of people are left without water.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) president Datuk Dr Marimuthu Nadason urged agencies and authorities involved in the supply chain of water regulation and distribution to undertake serious soul-searching over the latest incident involving Sungai Selangor.

He said for starters, the recent crisis reprise a fundamental concern, in that there was a need for sufficient water reserves should a water supply crisis strike again.

Marimuthu said Selangor, through Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) and its previous concessionaire, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas), had been grappling with this problem for decades.

He said this was despite the authorities announcing the Hybrid Off-River Augmentation System (Horas), which uses water from abandoned mining ponds to act as a back-up and dissolve pollution in water sources channelled to water treatment plants, in the event of a supply disruption.

"Selangor and Kuala Lumpur are the heart of Malaysia's economic growth and possess the biggest population nationwide.

"But they have an extremely slim margin for reserves. They have about one per cent of the average daily demand but they require 30 to 40 per cent (reserve)," he said, drawing on the crisis that had affected more than one million ratepayers and caused taps to run dry in 1,300 areas that on average demand 2,700 million litres of water day.

Marimuthu said Air Selangor also had 700 water tankers to distribute water to 1.2 million account holders to counter the water disruption. He said the firm faced a logistics nightmare in ensuring that water was continuously supplied to consumers.

He said around 30 per cent of the water leaks were due to non-revenue water brought about by old or faulty pipes.

He said companies needed to get rid of the profit-first mentality.

"What we need is a holistic management of the entire supply chain of water resources regulation, management, enforcement and distribution. Do we have the right (qualified) people in charge of the bodies related to the water services industry and the environment? We can't have below-par people running the show."

Marimuthu said this time the water supply disruption could not be swept under the carpet once the supply was restored.

"The authorities and agencies have to come up with thorough plans, including contingencies on strategies over the next weeks, months, and even decades, and execute them so there are fewer such incidents. We (need to) have enough reserves to withstand any water cut due to pollution, rationing, etc."

He said Air Selangor and other related agencies had to work on how to encourage and raise awareness of the need for water harvesting.

On Thursday, Air Selangor halted operations at its Sungai Selangor Water Treatment Plant Phase 1, 2, and 3 and the Rantau Panjang Water Treatment Plant due to industrial effluent pollution. Water supply is expected to be fully restored by 6am on Wednesday.

>> Turn to Page 5



KERATAN AKHBAR

7 September 2020

Akhbar	:	The Malaysian Reserve
Tajuk Berita	:	Growing calls to end Selangor's water issues
Muka Surat	:	4



TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT NEEDED: Taman Datuk Harun residents line up to get water in Petaling Jaya. Over a million Klang Valley residents were affected by the most recent pollution and many are clamouring for stiffer penalties and other solutions for the continued supply outage due to pollution and others.

Growing calls to end Selangor's water issues

by ALIFAH ZAINODIN

WATER woes in some of the country's most populated urban areas continued to exacerbate over the weekend.

Another pollution incident at a critical waterway in Selangor left over a million consumers in the nation's richest state and Kuala Lumpur with no water. The latest case sparked concern and resounding debate on industrial activities near local water catchment areas, tough laws for callous and repeat offenders and a more robust water supply network that could threaten local services.

Many local services, already impaired by the Covid-19 pandemic, were forced to temporarily close when an urgent demand of clean water is needed to meet new health guidelines on food

newspaper

Growing calls to end Selangor's water issues

preparation and regular cleaning of the premises.

Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association (MMRA) president Datuk Jawahar Ali Taha Khan said while some restaurants had to shutter, others had to limit their operations.

"I am deeply disappointed with what has happened as our incomes have been severely affected this year. Most of the restaurants of us have been forced to spend more to make sure our premises are always clean. We are using more water than ever before and restaurants more frequently."

"For example, we mop the floors five to six times a day. At times like this, we can't. With no water, how are we supposed to operate?" Jawahar told The Malaysian Reserve. Preston also cited 12 member restaurants in the Klang Valley.

Thousands made a beeline for the tankers deployed in selected areas to fill their jerrycans, home-hokey buckets, pots and bowls filled to the brim with water.

Supply issues are not unique in Selangor and have been a persistent problem in the state for decades.

Data from the Malaysia Water Industry Guide 2017 showed Selangor registering the highest number

of water supply-related complaints in the country, accounting for nearly half of the 161,857 cases recorded in 2016.

Selangor experienced 80,125 unscheduled water cuts for the year, compared to Penang with 5,908 cases and Johor 18,934. In 2015 the tally in Selangor was 100,000 cases.

For its latest misdeed, the company will receive an action notice from the environmental officer, forcing it to clear the land and demolish the factory building within the next three months. Its water supply will also be cut to stop the company from operating.

The police have since arrested the brothers and owners and 60 to assist investigations into the incident. The brothers and owners of the service yard have been fined RM500,000 or a maximum jail term of three years or whipping or all three, if convicted.

Despite the tough actions taken, many remain unsatisfied and are demanding that resolute actions be put in place to solve the polluted water once and for all.

Lawmakers have pledged to beef up environmental laws to tackle the problem.

Selangor environment chief, Dato Sri Azman Sharif said the state was

now looking to double the fine for water pollution to RM1 million

from the current RM400,000 under

the Selangor Water Management

Authority Enactment 1999.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin

said the National Environment

Quality Act 1974 should also

be amended to mete out heavier

punishments for polluters.

"Water is a matter of national security. Will be brought to Cabinet," he tweeted.

Energy, Science, Technology and Water Minister

Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man has

vowed to amend the laws and said

the perpetrators will be prosecuted

with immediate effect.

He said the agency has also

urged the government to set up a

National River Protection Authority

with immediate effect.

He said the outfit must then create buffer

areas around rivers where

business activities are prohibited.

He added that the police and

other enforcement authorities could be used to supervise the buffer zones with the help of CCTVs and sensors to detect illegal activities.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that water supply to 678,000 or 618 areas out of the 1,292 areas in the state was still off. The water supply disruption in seven regions in the Klang Valley has been fully restored as at 12.30pm yesterday.

Setia Bhd corporate communications head Elina Baseri said in a statement that restoration for the remaining 674 areas is still in progress.

She said Hulu Selangor, which supplies the highest water supply, resumed at 94.5%, followed by Kuala Selangor (93.5%), Petaling (92.2%), Kuala Langat (90%), Kuala Kubu Bharu (92%) and Gombak (11.3%).

"Air Selangor hopes consumers who have received water supply will be patient as the restoration process for the affected areas runs smoothly and according to schedule," she said and hoped users would cooperate with the agency's staff.

Air Selangor will also update the latest status of water supply from time to time through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the agency's website.