

14/07/1998

`Dry spell, not sports complex to blame for water woes'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The channelling of water to the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil, opened on Saturday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had not worsened the water problem in the Klang Valley.

Selangor Waterworks deputy director V. Subramaniam said the actual reason for the higher number of complaints received by the department over the past two weeks was the dry spell in the water catchment areas.

He said the complaints, up to 822 calls daily, were "more than normal" but were only caused by the dry spell which had severely affected water production.

"The complex requires only about 900,000 litres per day, less than one per cent of the Sungai Langat water treatment plant's production from which it is being supplied," he said.

Subramaniam was asked about speculation that the Commonwealth Games, to be held in September, would aggravate the water problem.

He said the arrival soon of two ultrasource machines with the capability of processing five million litres of water for the Games next month would ensure supply to residents would not be affected.

"We may depend wholly on the ultrasource machines for the Games if the situation at the dams and treatment plants does not improve by September."

Subramaniam said the department was also streamlining its water tanker operation to improve services in areas affected by rationing.

(END)