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Taps run dry for 32 shoplots in Kepong

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SHOPLOT owners in the Kepong Entrepreneurs' Park, who had been sourcing water illegally from the main pipes for the last six years, found themselves left "high and dry" when the Gombak Waterworks Department (JBA) disconnected supply without warning four days ago.

But it was circumstances that had forced the 32 owners to tap water illegally as there is no such supply to the light industrial estate which was developed by Sumana Jaya Sdn Bhd.

The company has gone into liquidation and the property is now in the hands of the Official Assignee.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall has not issued any certificates of fitness to the shoplots since the company, before entering liquidation, had not fulfilled certain requirements.

The shoplots owners, however, decided to move in and had appealed to the JBA and City Hall to look into their predicament.

But with no help coming, they then resorted to tapping water illegally.

Following the JBA's action, the owners, who are in the moulding business, staged a protest, urging the higher authorities to look into their plight.

Since Tuesday, some of them have been buying water to keep their businesses going.

The owners, headed by Building Owners Association chairman Low Kok Chuan, have sought the help of MCA Kepong Public Services Bureau chairman Yee Poh Ping.

Yee, speaking to reporters, said the JBA had indicated that it was willing to extend water supply to the area provided the owners produced CFs or at least temporary CFs.

"These are small-scale business operators who cannot operate without water," he said, adding that he would be sending a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to solve the shoplots owners' plight.

"It is no fault of theirs that they have not been issued the CF.

"On July 9, we wrote to the City Hall deputy director-general Ruslin Hassan to hold a dialogue between the authorities and the owners to solve the water issue.

"But while waiting for a reply, the JBA disconnected the supply."

He said the JBA should have been considerate as this action would affect their livelihood.

"The City Hall, too, should consider issuing at least the temporary CF on humanitarian grounds so that the owners will be able to submit an application to the JBA for supply."

Yee added that the owners had earlier (in 1995) paid RM500 as deposit and RM10 for the installation of meters to the developer through its management company, Farizar Project Management Sdn Bhd, but later discovered that no application had been made to the JBA.