

**Three states may face 14% water shortage by 2014**  
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KUALA LUMPUR (Aug 22, 2011): Consumers in some areas in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya will face a water supply crisis if the Pahang-Selangor Raw Water Transfer Project and the construction of the Air Langat 2 Water Treatment Plant are still not ready by 2014, said Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Bhd (Syabas) chief operations Officer Datuk Lee Miang Koi.

He said currently they were having a water supply deficit of 4.2% or 186 million litres a day and that this was expected to further worsen by 14% or 668 million litres a day by 2014.

"Syabas is facing difficulties in increasing the water levels at reserve resevoirs in the water stressed areas and it takes a long time (24 hours) to bring things back to normal if there is a water supply disruption," he told a press conference at his office here today.

He said three schemes which were approved by the government for additional water supply totalling 320 million litres a day, which was expected to be completed at the end of the year, could only meet demand for two years, based on the expected increase in demand.

He said the water supply situation became more complicated when the Selangor state government, through the National Water services Commission (SPAN), froze Capital Expenditure Programmes including the Reducing Non-Revenue Water Programme and the programme to replace old pipes, except for a small part which was critical.

"The freeze is expected to continue until a restructuring of the water supply service in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya is fully completed.

"So, the Selangor state government needS to take early action to guarantee that a water crisis involving 1.8 million consumers in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya does not take place," he said.

According to Lee, currently, the 33 water treatment plants in the three states had a capacity of 4,326 million litres with a reserve margin of only between three and five percent depending on the daily variation.

He said Syabas had also updated its Emergency Action Plan to ensure a thorough preparation could be implemented in the event of any crisis including during the coming festive season. – Bernama

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