

**Why 'guarantee' no water cuts if beyond your control, DAP asks
Khalid
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The Selangor government was criticised today for saying it had no control over state water utility Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas), after it had already "guaranteed" no further water rationing.

Selangor DAP chairman Tony Pua also took Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to task for promising that there would be no more major water disruptions earlier this month, only to see parts of the state hit by water shortage.

"The question is – why did the state government give the ironclad 'guarantee' if it now gives the excuse of 'no control over Syabas'? Did the state secure a 'guarantee' from Syabas before issuing the 'guarantee'?" the Petaling Jaya Utara MP said in a statement today.

In response to an earlier statement from Pua, Khalid yesterday dismissed responsibility over possible future water rationing by saying Syabas was not yet within the state's controls, and suggested that criticism should instead be levied against Syabas officers who were "paid millions".

But Pua said the state government had sufficient time to put in place contingency measures to cope with any resulting shortage.

"Hence when water shortages occur within days after the guarantee issued, does that not make the Pakatan Rakyat government, and its elected representatives, look like complete fools?"

"This is especially since there has been no response from the state government explaining the causes of the severe shortage in various parts of Selangor.

"Nobody seems to know the cause. Everyone, including the Pakatan Rakyat elected representatives, is only aware that the state government gave a 'guarantee'."

Pua also denied that Khalid's claim that the PR elected representatives had not given any constructive proposals to solve the water crisis.

He said DAP Serdang MP Dr Ong Kian Ming had already proposed setting up a water task force comprising of Khalid, key elected representatives and state officials.

Ong also called upon the state government to put in place contingency plans, such as creating dedicated water disbursement teams in areas prone to water disruption and providing it with sufficient back up resources, said Pua.

Other measures proposed, including consumer education and clamping down on illegal usage of water, went unheeded, he added.

"The problem isn't the lack of 'constructive proposals', it is that they seem to fall on deaf ears," said Pua.

On June 11, Khalid said there were no plans to ration water to more than seven million consumers in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

But Syabas has stated that several areas in the Klang Valley would

face "inevitable" unscheduled disruptions and low water pressure, as water intake at its water treatment plant has been lowered. – June 28, 2014

- See more at:
<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/why-guarantee-no-water-cuts-if-beyond-your-control-dap-asks-khalid#sthash.X8r2vO6p.dpuf>

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