

**Selangor folk would like to know why water woes not solved,
DAP tells Khalid
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BY ANISAH SHUKRY**

Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim and his officials should go down to the ground and meet Selangor folk suffering from water shortages to explain why the state government has failed to resolve their woes, a DAP lawmaker said today.

Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua said instead of blaming water concessionaire Syabas, "it might be more important for the menteri besar and the state officials to pay a visit to the families queuing up with pails to draw water from the supply tanks".

"I am certain these residents will be keen to hear about what the state has done and why Syabas is to blame," said Pua, referring to Khalid's guarantee earlier this month that there would be no more water rationing in the state in the future.

Shortly after Khalid made the announcement, parts of Selangor began facing water disruptions, prompting the menteri besar to say his administration had no control over Syabas.

Khalid had even taken aim at Pua for criticising the state government's handling of the water crisis, and suggested that the Petaling Jaya Utara MP be taught on the state's water restructuring exercise and why Syabas was to blame.

"Khalid may be right to point the finger at Syabas, which might have intentionally or otherwise, sabotaged the water distribution process resulting in water shortages throughout Selangor," said Pua in a statement.

"Some residents might wonder why the state government was so quick to promise guaranteed water supply when it is aware that Syabas has refused to cooperate or even attend state-organised meetings."

Pua added that the Selangor government should help the people deal with the water shortage, rather than point fingers at Syabas.

"Even if the state government is unable to fulfil the guarantee, the question is, what can the state government do to provide immediate assistance and relief to the victims of serious water disruptions?"

"Should we not have some empathy and put in place a 'Plan B' for these long-suffering victims?"

"Surely, a responsible and caring Pakatan Rakyat state government should do much more than just blame Syabas."

He said Pakatan could not sit idle while waiting for the state to take over Syabas and allow the water firm to make a mockery of the government.

"The rakyat do not want to see quibbling Pakatan Rakyat leaders. They want to see a pro-active Pakatan Rakyat government which will go out of its way to share the rakyat's burden and ease their pain."

He said it was for this reason that he supported Serdang MP Dr Ong Kian Ming's suggestion to set up a task force comprising the menteri besar, key elected representatives and state officials to solve the water woes.

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 reduced. – June 29, 2014.

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