



KERATAN AKHBAR

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'Sabotage not ruled out behind water disruption cases'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has not discounted the possibility of sabotage on the recurring cases of water disruption in Selangor.

"Elements of sabotage are for police to investigate but at the back of my mind, I cannot say that it may not be sabotage," Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar said yesterday.

"It is something that we have to look into. I have experience of more than 10 years of water disruptions in Selangor and we always had the notion that it might be (sabotage)," he said when asked if the increasing frequency of water disruptions could be due to sabotage.

Xavier had earlier launched the Malaysia International Water Convention at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

He said it was quite a task to monitor water sources due to various reasons.

"As far as we know, it is very difficult to monitor water resource intake areas as they are so wide, large and so rural sometimes ... you can't have your eyes, ears in all these places all the time."

But he said measures are in place to monitor and detect irresponsible parties from committing such acts.

He added industry players and the corporate sector must change their method of disposing waste water.

"We have come to a stage where we can't tolerate discharging of raw waste water into main streams.

"If you are caught, you are going to pay a heavy price," Xavier said, adding that he had instructed Indah Water and the National Water Services Commission to be more effective in their enforcement.

Xavier said the government would be reviewing by-laws and legislation to better protect water resources to ensure stricter enforcement when it comes to taking action against unscrupulous parties that contaminate water sources.

He said among the laws that would be reviewed is the Water Services Industry Act 2006.

In June, it was reported that odour pollution was detected in the raw water source in Sungai Semenyih. On July 19, another case of odour pollution was detected in the raw water source in Sungai Selangor.