



KERATAN AKHBAR

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WATER DISRUPTION

4 water treatment plants shut down again over diesel contamination

SHAH ALAM: The operations of four water treatment plants had to be suspended again yesterday after Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas), a subsidiary of Air Selangor, detected that diesel traces had contaminated the Sungai Selangor water source.

Air Selangor's Customer Relations Department and Water Management head, Abdul Raof Ahmad, said following the discovery, the Rantau Panjang water treatment plant (LRA) had to suspend operations at 6pm.

This was followed by the LRA SSP3 at 8pm, as well as LRA SSP1 and SSP2 at 8.15pm.

"We detected diesel contamination near the LRA Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2 and 3 as well as LRA Rantau Panjang, from the Sungai Selangor raw water source.

"We have established the cause

to be sand dredging done up-stream.

"This is the second incident in three days involving the closure of all four main water treatment plants, which have led to a large-scale unscheduled service interruption to our customers."

He said Air Selangor was unable to determine the recovery time in the event the contamination recurred.

"The affected areas remain as before.

"Do refer to the Air Selangor mobile application, www.syabas.com.my, Air Selangor's Facebook page or @air_selangor on Twitter for more information and updates," he said.

Meanwhile, the National Water Service Commission (SPAN) will take legal action against the polluters over the unscheduled water disruption in the Klang Valley that affected about five million consumers.

People queuing to collect water from an Air Selangor tanker in Ampang on Saturday. PIC BY SWARAFIQ ABD SAMAD



Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar said SPAN would do

so in its capacity as the regulatory body for water and sewerage services.

He said this following the closure of the Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2 and 3, as well as the Rantau Panjang water treatment plants due to raw water pollution that affected 1,191,94 accounts in the Klang Valley.

Jayakumar called for a concerted effort from the people, the federal and state governments as well as agencies to work closely to deter activities that could jeopardise the health of rivers, which are the country's main raw water resources.

"I urge agencies — such as the Department of Environment under the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry as well as state agencies — to conduct audits as well as enforcement along river lines in Selangor and other states."

It was earlier reported that odour pollution caused by oil-based waste led to the closure of the four treatment plants.