



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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Think of the future when planning for the present

SELANGOR, Malaysia's most populous and industrialised state, has had more than its fair share of bad news lately.

Throughout the past one and a half years of the Covid-19 pandemic, the state has been the biggest contributor to the daily statistics on infections.

And while Malaysians were ushering in the 64th anniversary of Merdeka on Aug 31, tens of thousands of residents in Selangor for the umpteenth time within just a year received the bad news that at least 450 areas would have no water supply due to contamination of the water sources in nearby rivers.

As I write this letter, supply in most of the affected areas has yet to be restored and people have had to line up in long queues to obtain water from mobile tankers.

These queues, unfortunately, are rather regular scenes that betray Selangor's developed state status, and in the process bringing miseries especially to residents of high-rise apartments who are



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forced to carry potable water to their premises.

Then in the same breath came yet more bad news – a company had been given approval to develop into mixed commercial projects half of the degazetted area or 536.7ha of the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR). The degazettement of some of

the last green lungs of Selangor was bulldozed through despite widespread protests from citizens and environmentalists.

Meanwhile, the Penang Water Supply Corporation is protesting over Kedah's plans to build an international airport in Kulim due to concerns over the discharge of wastewater into Sungai Muda, the

main water source for Penang and south Kedah.

Size-wise, this Kulim Airport project is nothing compared to the proposed massive development coming up at KLNFR (pic).

Have the authorities and project stakeholders given a thought to the potential environmental damage on Selangor's depleting water sources while the massive construction works are in progress?

Would they have considered the environmental damage of effluents from the various industries that would be sprouting there in future?

If they haven't, please spare a thought to these issues to avert a future environmental crisis, particularly to water, life's most precious commodity.

How much longer must we citizens tolerate or allow God-given treasures like the KLNFR to be sacrificed in the name of "economic development"?

DATUK SERI AZMAN UJANG
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