

‘Riverbank collapse caused turbidity’

STILL SAFE: Water treatment plants can screen turbidity, says menteri besar

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THE turbidity in the waters of Sungai Selangor was caused by the collapse of an embankment along its tributary, Sungai Kerling.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, in revealing this yesterday, said Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (Luas) detected the embankment failure which occurred about 2km from the Sungai Kerling mini hydro-power station.

It was located close to the Selangor-Pahang border.

“According to the report I received from Luas, the collapse (em-

bankment) along the Sungai Kerling was due to natural causes.

“There were no sign that any manmade activities, such as logging and sand-mining, was the cause of the collapse.

“It had been raining heavily and the riverbank gave way,” he said after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting, here.

He said Luas would continue to monitor the situation while preparing contingency plans on the matter.

Khalid said Luas had suggested that additional ponds be built to allow water from Sungai Selangor to flow in, from where the water would, in turn, flow into four water treatment plants.

The move would allow for the reduction of turbidity in the water and also ensure undisrupted water flow.

Khalid, however, said the state would only finalise the move once Luas had come up with the full details of the proposal.

Earlier, in Puchong, Khalid had urged the public not to worry un-

duly over the murky water in Sungai Selangor.

He said the condition of the water posed no threat as the treatment plants were fully capable of filtering out the turbidity and delivering clean water to the public.

Khalid said this after handing over the Air Hitam sanitary landfill in Air Hitam to the Subang Jaya Municipal Council.

Khalid said water concessionaire Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) was capable of handling similar problems at all its water treatment plants in the state.

Syabas’ head of corporate affairs Halem Mat Som said that he welcomed the state government’s decision to hire an independent regulator and an operations auditor from the international consultancy firm, Halcrow, to look into the cause of the pollution in Sungai Selangor.

“We certainly welcome the call to clarify the cause of the turbidity and the slow production of clean



Plastic and decaying rubbish left along river banks also contribute to the **pollution** of Sungai Selangor.

water and hope the move will result in a continuous flow of water to the people of Klang Valley,” Halem said.

Syabas had, on Monday, warned that more than three million peo-

ple in the Klang Valley risked water cuts because of the turbid water, which had affected the water treatment plants in Ijok.

This had resulted in a drop of 60 per cent in clean water production.