

Interest in Selangor drying up

APPLICATIONS REJECTED: State will regress if water impasse continues, says NGO

KUALA LUMPUR

SELANGOR risks losing its status as a developed state if it is unable to resolve the water impasse that has deterred multinationals and businesses from operating in the state.

Gerakan Prihatin Rakyat Selangor (GPRS) chairman Datuk Sohaimi Shahadan claimed that more than 1,000 applications from various industry players to set up factories in Selangor were either rejected or deferred by water distributor, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas), due to the anticipated severe shortage of treated water.

"At present, many investors are bypassing Selangor because Syabas is unable to supply a huge amount of treated water for factories.

This is worrying if investors continue to bypass Selangor," he said.

News reports revealed that Top Glove Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of rubber gloves, had its application for an additional 20 per cent water consumption rejected by Syabas.

Consumer goods manufacturer F&N had to endure five days of dry taps at its new RM300 million facility in Pulau Indah.

Sohaimi said Selangor, which is Malaysia's richest state, would be going backwards if the state government lacked enthusiasm in en-

suring investors' interest in the Klang Valley as well as failing to provide a basic need to households in the state. He urged Syabas to keep reminding the Selangor state government on the critical shortage of treated water, adding that Syabas must be proactive in voicing its suggestions in overcoming the shortage before reserves at its plants reached a critical level.

"We (GPRS) were made to understand that Syabas had sent a letter to the Selangor state government three years ago explaining the need to have an additional water treatment plant.

He hoped that Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim was not using the water issue as a political tool to win support from the state's voters to oppose the Federal Government's call for an additional treatment plant.

"He (Khalid) must look at the water issue from a micro and macro perspective. Selangor is not only supplying water to the state but also to

Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur as well." On the proposed Langat 2 water treatment plant, Sohaimi believed that the construction of the plant would be the answer to having adequate treated water in the state for a 10 to 15-year period as the proposed facility had taken in to account many factors, including the crippling drought in 1998 and the increase in the supply of raw water from Pahang. **Bernama**



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Datuk Sohaimi Shahadan
GPRS chairman

Sources of river pollution in Selangor

INFOGRAPHIC: NST

