

Water level at dam hits 40%

Capacity reached after nearly five months

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PETALING JAYA: For the first time in almost five months, the water level at Sungai Selangor dam has breached the 40% level.

The dam, which supplies 60% of water to households in the Klang Valley has been seeing water levels that stubbornly hovered between 30-40% in the last few months, causing many to worry about the introduction of another water rationing exercise.

According to the Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS) website, the dam was at 40.16% capacity as of 8am yesterday.

A capacity of 30% is the critical level and for a month-and-half earlier this year, residents of Klang Valley had to undergo water rationing due to the low levels of about 31% at the dam.

The rain that has caused flash floods in the northern region and parts of the Klang Valley has somehow contributed to the rise in water levels at the dam.

"We're lucky," said Association of Water and Energy Research (Awer) president S. Piarapakaran. "But we have to keep our fingers crossed and reduce water consumption at all times."

He added that there is nothing to rejoice as the "safe" level determined by LUAS is 55%

and if it took more than a month to increase the dam levels by 10%, it would take the same time with a similar weather pattern, to achieve the optimum level.

"There is an established demand for water supply from consumers and industries.

"Sungai Selangor dam functions together with the smaller Sungai Tinggi dam to provide water and if we can be in such a tight situation with two dams, we have to keep on conserving water till the Langat 2 water plant is out," said Piarapakaran.

The Langat 2 water plant project which is expected to be completed in mid-2017, serves to provide sufficient water supply to residents of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

The project had been held back for three years.

On the weather pattern, Meteorological Department spokesman Dr Hisham Mohd Anip said not much rainfall is expected over the peninsula due to the presence of super typhoon Vongfong over Philippines and typhoon Hudhud over the bay of Bengal, India.

"The condition will change once both typhoons dissipate by early next week and our weather pattern is back to the normal inter-monsoon, with more heavy rainfall and thunderstorm in the afternoon over west coast states of peninsula," said Hisham.



Small relief:
A man catching fish in flood-hit Kampung Kibabaig in Penampang.

Flood woes continue in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: Flooding, landslips and evacuations across west coast Sabah continue as heavy rains triggered by the tail effects of Typhoon Vongfong over the last one week create havoc.

Residents remained alert bracing themselves for rising waters. Some were evacuated early yesterday as heavy rains coupled with 40kph winds knocked down power and communication lines, uprooted trees and blew away rooftops in many areas.

Two families comprising 11 people in Kota Belud and 14 others from Tuaran were evacuated by firemen following flooding which cut off main roads linking the state capital to several districts.

At least eight schools involving over 2,000 students and teachers from Kota Kinabalu, Papar, Kota Belud and Beaufort were closed as access roads were cut off.

Another two primary schools in Kiulu near Tuaran including SK Tudon were affected by landslides.

A family of seven fled their home when a landslip hit a room of the house in Kg Gudon of Menggatal here.

Fuel supplies expected yesterday have yet to reach interior Sabah's Keningau where petrol, diesel and cooking gas supplies are running out following the closure of the Kota Kinabalu-Tambunan road due to landslips.

The water level at Penampang's Kasigui and Moyog rivers were reported at 8.5m at noon, which is below the 10m danger level, while other areas around the district were hit by floods of between 0.3m and 1m.

The rain and strong winds that started around 9pm on Thursday forced several flights into Kota Kinabalu to be diverted.

Sabah Meteorological Department director Abdul Malek Tussin said the weather should improve from today with Typhoon Vongfong's tail effects weakening.