

Level dropping at S'gor dams

Concerns of repeat of last year's water rationing in Klang valley raised

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PETALING JAYA: The water levels at Selangor's dams are falling with the start of the dry season, raising concerns of a repeat of last year's rationing in the Klang Valley if the situation worsens in the months ahead.

Sungai Selangor dam, which supplies to 60% of the Klang Valley, saw its water level going up from September last year to reach a

peak of 81.96% on Feb 2.

But the level has been dropping since, hitting 78.93% yesterday.

Water levels at four other dams have also fallen since Feb 2.

They include three dams – Klang Gates, Langat and Batu – which all recorded 100% water levels on Dec 6 last year but had readings of 90.3%, 98.06% and 93.1% respectively yesterday.

"There is no reason to panic over the downward trend of water levels but we must not be compla-

cent as we do not know how long this current dry spell will last," said Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia president S. Piarapakaran.

The Klang Valley experiences two dry seasons in a year, the first in February to March during the end of the Northeast monsoon season and the second in mid-May through September due to the Southwest monsoon.

Rationing was imposed in the Klang Valley and Selangor on March 2 last year after the water

level at the Sungai Selangor dam dipped below 40% due to a prolonged dry spell, and lifted on May 1. The dam's critical level is 30%.

Piarapakaran said the level of Sungai Selangor may now appear to be high but was actually lower than it should be as the dam would usually be at 100% capacity around March every year.

He said that cloud seeding must be conducted as soon as possible to induce rainfall in the catchment areas.

He added that efforts must be redoubled to reduce non-revenue water caused by water-theft, burst pipelines, accidental damage to pipes during excavation and leakages.

Piarapakaran urged authorities to speed up work to increase the supply of raw water to the Klang Valley via construction of the Langat 2 treatment plant and the Pahang-Selangor raw water transfer project, both of which are due to be ready only by the end of 2017.