

Sungai Liwagu clean-up begins

RANAU: Work to remove debris from Sungai Liwagu started yesterday, with heavy machinery sent to Kampung Bambangan here.

Ranau Water Department engineer Anthony Jullah said the clearing work was carried out by contractors, adding that more machinery would be deployed.

The debris, made up of timber logs and huge boulders, flowed through the river, clogging the Bambangan new water intake point and treatment plant after mudslides hit the district last week.

"They (the contractors) are making a route into the area to allow vehicles to go in.

"I was informed that the logs will be collected in one location before they decide on the disposal site for the debris," he said, adding that it would take time to completely clear the river.

On seeking military assistance, Jullah said the matter had to be approved by the authorities, adding that the department was utilising contractors and heavy machinery at the moment.

Yesterday, between 60 and 70



Clearing work at the Bambangan water treatment plant in Ranau started yesterday. Bernama pic

per cent of water production was restored after the department repaired the old water intake point at Kampung Lipasu and its treatment plant at Kampung Kimolohing.

The Kimolohing water treatment plant produces eight million litres of water per day and started supplying water to consumers in Ranau from midnight.

"Water supply has been recon-

nected to the town area, shops, schools and hospital.

"However, villagers residing outside the town area may still face a shortage."

Following the earthquake on June 5, debris from the foot of Mount Kinabalu had clogged up Sungai Liwagu, damaging two water intake points and treatment plants in the district.

Hundreds of villagers were forced to evacuate and seek shelter at three evacuation centres — Dewan Mini Kudasang, Dewan Masyarakat Ranau and Dewan Marakau.

They depend on humanitarian aid for clean water with more than 40,000 boxes of mineral water bottles donated to the district.

Two mobile purification plants were delivered to Ranau, each providing 24 tonnes of drinking water per day.

This has enabled villagers to collect water in containers and bottles.

The mobile water purification plants were loaned free of charge by Timatch Sdn Bhd, which has a water treatment facility in Sabah.