

Johor river's water level below critical

JOHOR BARU: Sungai Sembrong Kiri, which supplies water to a water treatment plant that serves part of the Kluang district, has seen its water level drop in the last four days.

Syarikat Air Johor (SAJ) Holdings Sdn Bhd corporate communication head Jamaluddin Jamil said the dry spell had likely led to the river's current water level to drop to 0.4m, which is below the critical level of 0.8m.

"With the water level currently recorded at 0.4m, it means that the Sungai Sembrong Kiri water treatment plant cannot operate at the optimum level.

"This has led to low water supply pressure in parts of Kluang town," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said there were no plans for water rationing in Kluang as it has not led to any water supply disruption for residents there and its surrounding areas.

However, Jamaluddin said SAJ was ready to deploy water tankers to the affected areas to accommodate any supply shortage.

On Monday, the NST reported that the water level at two dams in Johor had dropped below the critical level and it was feared that it may worsen

if the dry spell continues until August.

A dam in Sungai Layang, Masai, which supplies water to the Pasir Gudang industrial areas and most parts of Johor Baru, has breached the critical level, depleting at a rate of 0.03m and 0.07m each day.

It was also reported that the Sungai Lebam Dam, which supplies water to the Sungai Lebam water treatment plant to be channelled to 65,000 users in Pengerang, Bandar Penawar and Fel'da Air Tawar in Kota Tinggi, has seen a gradual drop of 0.01m per day over the past three months.

SAJ said the depleting water level at both dams was considered serious as the water supply could possibly last between 20 to 30 days if there was no rainfall in the next few weeks.

It is learnt that based on a forecast by the Malaysian Meteorological Department, there should be rainfall in parts of Johor next week.

Jamaluddin said no other dams or water treatment plants in the state were facing problems, and assured the public that the situation was being monitored to prevent any water supply disruption.