

Plan to solve Kota Belud's water crisis

SHORTAGE: Authorities to build water intake plant, provide 10 pumps

AVILA GERALDINE
KOTA BELUD
avila@nst.com.my

THE state authorities have come up with a plan to supply the district, which is facing a water crisis, with 36 million litres of water daily.

The water shortage problem had worsened after Sungai Kedamaian, which flows from Mount Kinabalu, was contaminated due to mudslides caused by the June 5 earthquake and aftershocks.

Now, the district is dependent on Sungai Wariu for water, as the main water treatment plant cannot channel enough water to several villages.

Kota Belud member of parliament

Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, who is also urban wellbeing, housing and local government minister, said the district was getting its water supply from boreholes and the Pandasan Water Treatment Plant.

"The district has 10 boreholes which supply 12 million litres of water daily.

"It is not enough to meet the water requirement of the people here of almost 36 million litres per day," he said yesterday.

Rahman said the district action committee had discussed the issue and came up with an action plan, involving pre-emptive and long-term measures,



Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan

"I have instructed the state Water Department's district office to provide 10 new underground pumps so

which include the construction of a water intake plant at Sungai Wariu to replace the old intake plant at Sungai Kedamaian.

that water can be supplied to more people.

"A booster pump will be installed at the Pandasan Water Treatment Plant to increase pressure," he said, adding that installation work would begin as soon as pumps were provided.

Meanwhile, he said, temporary

measures such as rationing would be implemented to supply water to the people in a more systematic manner.

Rahman has directed the State Fire and Rescue Department to mobilise its high-capacity tank to supply water to a nearby hospital and mosques.



Dead fish lying on the banks of **Sungai Kedamaian** near Kampung Kaung Ulu, Kota Belud. **Mudslides have affected the river's water quality.** Pic by Lano Lan