



Two Syabas workers placing booms to prevent the spill from spreading further.

Gombak water treatment plant closed after spill

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KUALA LUMPUR: Oh no, not again!

A collision between a lorry and a palm oil tanker at Km31 of the Kuala Lumpur-Karak Highway on Friday forced the closure of the Gombak water treatment plant.

The tanker suffered a rupture and one-third of its consignment spilled into a drain flowing into the Gombak river, which supplies water to 13 residential areas in the Gombak district.

Water concessionaire Syarikat Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) ordered the plant closed about three hours after the accident, just before the spill, which occurred 5km upstream, reached its water intake point.

On Sept 9 last year, an accident involving two palm oil tankers at Km29.3 of the Kuala Lumpur-Karak highway caused an oil spill that contaminated water supply in 13 areas.

The oil leaked into several streams leading to the Gombak river, forcing the closure of the treatment plant and causing supply disruptions for five days.

Friday's accident happened



A Syabas security officer advising teenagers to stop swimming in Sungai Rumput Mati.

less than 2km from the spot of the September mishap.

Selangor Infrastructure and Public Utilities committee chairman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar said the lessons learnt from last year led the authorities to shut down the treatment plant before it got contaminated.

Although the plant was only expected to resume operations today, he said taps would not run dry as houses and factories could still get supply from their water tanks.

"For example, the International Islamic University

Malaysia has a reserve of some nine million litres."

Fatah said the immediate task now was to clean the river of the spill which stretched for 5km and a contractor had been appointed. The job was expected to be completed by today.

"Booms to trap the oil have been placed and workers are scouring the affected stretch to remove trapped oil."

Fatah said queries on water shortages could be directed to Syabas at 1-800-88-5252 or through SMS by typing PUS-PEL and sending it to 39222.