

River back to normal

By YIP YOKE TENG
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

GOMBAK: The palm oil spill at Sungai Gombak has been cleaned up.

With the river situation now back to normal, thousands of residents here need not be subjected to any water cut today.

Selangor Infrastructure and Public Utilities Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar said the clean-up was completed by 6.30pm yesterday.

However, he would check the water quality at about 10am again today with Lembaga Urusan Air Selangor (LUAS) and

the Selangor Department of Environment (DOE) before allowing water to flow into the treatment plant.

"I don't want any untoward incident to happen, like stench or oil in the water. Thus, we need to check the water quality first before letting it enter the treatment plant," Abdul Fatah said.

A palm oil tanker overturned at the 31st kilometre of the Kuala Lumpur-Karak Highway last Friday and spilled its load into Sungai Gombak.

The tanker, owned by the Kelantan Development Board, is believed to have been hit by another lorry.

Abdul Fatah assured that there would be no water cut in the district today, adding that residents would receive their water supply from reservoirs.

As a contingency plan, Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) would station 20 static tanks at International Islamic University and two at Jabatan Hal Ehwal Orang Asli Hospital to refill the reservoirs.

According to Abdul Fatah, they had hoped to complete the clean-up by 5pm yesterday so that water could enter the plant at about 9pm and treated water could be pumped out by 11pm.

Contractor workers have been

cleaning the river since Friday night and supply would have been disrupted if the works could not be completed by yesterday.

Puncak Niaga workers also put up booms in time to trap palm oil that had flowed into the drinking water source.

Abdul Fatah added that LUAS and the DOE would meet today to decide on action to take against the culprit for polluting the river.

Selangor DOE director Che Asmah Ibrahim assured residents that the workers had cleaned the river manually without using any chemicals.



Abdul Fatah: Assured that there would be no water cut in Gombak today