

MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	15 Jan 2013	Language	English
Circulation	20,816	Readership	49,000
Section	News	Color	Full Color
Page No	8	ArticleSize	258 cm ²
AdValue	RM 2,948	PR Value	RM 8,844



Selangor government has little influence over Syabas

Subsidiary points finger at water concessionaire's majority shareholder for recent water woes

By MEENA LAKSHANA

meena@mmail.com.my

THE Selangor government has limited influence over the decision-making at Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas), a representative from state subsidiary Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad (KDEB) said yesterday.

Refuting statements made by Universiti Utara Malaysia academician and senior lecturer Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Sani Ahmad that upgrading of water plants and pump stations fell under the jurisdiction of the Selangor government, KDEB president Suhaimi Kamaralzaman said the state government only had a minority share in the concessionaire to affect board decisions.

"The state government only has a 30 per cent share and two directors in Syabas," he said in a

press statement.

"The day-to-day operations and maintenance of water facilities are carried out by the management of Syabas, who are appointed by the majority shareholder, Puncak Niaga Holdings Berhad."

He said an example of the Selangor state's limited influence on Syabas was evident when its management proposed water rationing in July last year, which was reached without prior reference with the Board of Directors.

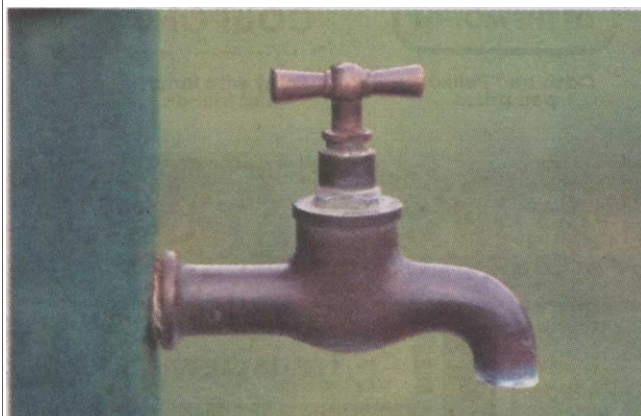
As KDEB representatives are part of the State Water Monitoring Committee, headed by Selangor state secretary Datuk Mohd Khusrin Munawi, Suhaimi said Syabas' action and recovery plans on the water problem faced by residents in Ampang and Gombak are

being monitored.

Ahmad Zaharudin had reportedly said on Saturday that under the agreement signed between the Selangor government and Syabas, river cleaning and water catchment, grating approval to operators of water treatment and suppliers, and construction and upgrading of pump stations and plants were under the jurisdiction of the state government.

However, when contacted, Selangor state Executive Councillor for Health, Plantation Workers, Poverty and Caring Government Dr Xavier Jayakumar said Syabas is responsible for the maintenance of plants and pump stations.

"There is no reason why people should point fingers at the Selangor government for the poor maintenance of these plants," he said.



ALL DRIED OUT: KDEB claims the water shortage cannot be blamed solely on the Selangor government as it has limited influence on decisions at Syabas