

Research into free water

NGO: Selangor needs to study how programme is affecting water crisis

PETALING JAYA: A research should be conducted into the Selangor government's free water programme to determine its effects on the supply of the precious commodity in the state.

Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia president S. Piarapakaran said that not enough research had been carried out.

"We have not done enough research on the programme to determine how it affects the Selangor water crisis. We should look deeper into the matter.

"However, I feel that consumers can help by voicing their opinions to the government and relevant bodies. Don't hesitate to send them e-mails and voice your concerns because this is water we're talking about," he said.

Since 2008, the Selangor government has been subsidising the first 20 cubic metres of water amounting to RM11.40 for each consumer in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

In Shah Alam, Selangor state exec-

utive councillor Iskandar Samad said more people should adopt rainwater harvesting to help reduce the demand for treated water.

He said the Federal Government had recently drawn up new guidelines making it compulsory for houses with a certain 'roof area' to practise rainwater harvesting.

"There's a new federal guideline. If you build your house with a certain roof area, you need to have some form of rainwater harvesting. It is compulsory," he told reporters.

State water concessionaire Syabas had issued a warning that residents in Hulu Langat, Sepang, Kuala Langat and Petaling would be facing unscheduled water cuts and low water pressure well into Chinese New Year if demand for the precious commodity continued to rise.

Asked if the state's free water scheme might lead to wastage by consumers, fellow exco member Dr Halimah Ali said: "Only 20 cubic metres is free. They have to pay if they use more than that."