

Awer: Time is running out

Resolve water services revamp to avert crisis, NGO tells Selangor

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PETALING JAYA: The impasse over the restructuring of water services in Selangor must be resolved by June to prevent the heavily-populated state from facing a water crisis in the next two years, warns Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia (Awer).

Its president S. Piarapakaran said Awer welcomed the move by Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui to resume stalled talks with the state government to find a solution.

"Time is running out and the issue

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— S. PIARAPAKARAN

over the state's water services restructuring must be resolved by the middle of this year.

"The parties must put aside political considerations and come to an agreement to get work done now to prevent a water crisis," he told *The Star* yesterday.

Piarapakaran said the Government

was aware of the urgent need to address the state's water problems.

"If the state government cares for the *rakyat* and economic well-being of Selangor, it should resolve the state's water services restructuring issues such as the Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) takeover and Langat II water treatment plant," he said.

"The Mentri Besar was a former chief executive officer of a company and he should know how to conduct business and find feasible solutions to address the state's concerns."

Piarapakaran said the water crisis would severely affect large parts of the state, including Kuala Lumpur

and Putrajaya.

Awer, a non-governmental research think tank made up of experts in water and energy, published several papers on water management models which have since received international recognition.

The group had issued a warning in January of Selangor's looming water crisis by 2014.

On Monday, Chin said he would call for a meeting with the relevant parties to discuss issues facing Selangor's water services restructuring programme after the matter was brought up in Parliament by senior state executive councillor for Investment, Industry & Trade, Teresa Kok.