

PAAB: It's untrue Selangor Govt against Langat 2

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KUALA LUMPUR: The public perception that the Selangor Government disagrees with the construction of the Langat 2 water treatment plant project "is untrue", said Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd's (PAAB) chief executive officer and director Datuk Ahmad Faizal Rahman.

"I would like to correct that perception. In fact, the Selangor Government has never stated that the Langat 2 project is not needed.

"It has, however, said that as long as the water restructuring programme is not resolved, it (the Selangor Government) would not give the approval for Langat 2," Ahmad Faizal said when asked by journalists on how PAAB intended to go ahead with the project, given that the Selangor Government seemed to be against Langat 2.

"The key point here is that everyone is aware of the urgency and need for Langat 2 to ensure continued water supply in Selangor. Of course, we have enough water at present although there are minor shortages at times. But we are talking about four to five years in the future," he added.

He pointed out that the issue now



A file picture shows people collecting water during a water cut in the Klang Valley. Studies showed that demand for water in the Klang Valley will rise by a net 3% per annum in the coming years.

was whether the state's water restructuring would be concluded before the Langat 2 project begins 10 months from now.

"I hope this matter will be resolved. We hope that the Selangor Government will work together with the Federal Government towards the restructuring of the water indus-

try. The Federal Government has said that it supports the restructuring of the water industry in Selangor," Ahmad Faizal said.

"Now, there is new vigour to push ahead with the restructuring. I heard the new offer (for Selangor's water assets) will be seriously discussed with the operators.

"I think both parties realise that without restructuring, everyone will face water problems in Selangor. So this thing must be resolved one way or another. Whether it is the Federal Government or Selangor Government, it doesn't matter. But it must be resolved," he added.

PAAB said it had had discussions with the Selangor Government and that the special cabinet committee has allowed Selangor to proceed with the offer on the equity portion; and that the assets and liabilities portion mechanism would "mirror what PAAB has done for other states".

Meanwhile, PAAB said studies showed that demand for water was estimated to rise by a net 3% per annum in the coming years due to urbanisation trends in which people migrate to the Klang Valley to work.

"In the early 1990's and early 2000's, demand went up an average of about 7% per year. Between 2005 and 2010, demand went down about 3% a year.

"There is a growth now of about 3% a year, with rough calculations of demand today of about 4,400 million litres of water per day (mld). By 2016 we need another 1,000 mld, while the capacity now is only 4,400 mld. So surely there will be a shortage," he said.