



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
06 MAC 2019 (RABU)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

Sin Chew Daily

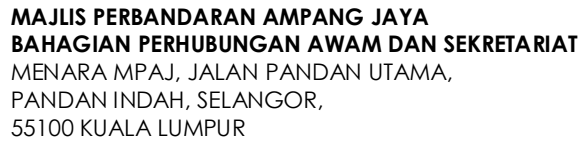
- Bukit Tabur belum dibuka, pesalah boleh dikenakan tindakan Denda

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StarMetro GREATER KLANG VALLEY

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When the rain comes

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Efficient usage: Klang Municipal Council Solid Waste Management worker Magendran Karupiah, 35, washing the high-water pressure truck using water collected in a rain harvester at the council's yard. — AFIQUE YUSOFF/The Star

Environmentally responsible acts

Storing the resource goes a long way in sustainable water management



Stories by EDWARD RAJENDRA
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WATER is a precious natural resource but most urban dwellers take it for granted as clean, treated water runs out of taps, for the most part, without disruption.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Town Planning Department director Zailani Panot said change in climate patterns was obvious and people need to be aware of the imminent water shortage in the future.

"We experienced two-month water rationing during the dry spell in March and April 2014 that caused much hardship at that time as people, armed with buckets, had to wait for water tankers to provide water," he said.

He added that it was vital for measures to be put in place to help reduce the high rate of treated water loss.

"Just think about it. Do we need to use treated water to water our gardens at home, wash our cars or even the front porch? Surely not!"

"Water is a scarce resource. We need to use less water in the bathroom and even when washing dishes," he added.

MPK was among five local authorities involved in the Low Carbon City Framework (LCCF) 2017-2027 mapped out in August 2017, in which one of the strategies brought up included more efficient water usage via rain harvesting, water-efficient tap heads and getting households to ensure there were no leakages to existing water pipes.

Other local councils involved in LCCF, to encourage green practices to reduce the effects of climate change, are Petaling Jaya City Council, Shah Alam City Council, Subang Jaya Municipal Council and Sepang Municipal Council. It makes sense to look into more ways to save and conserve water given the current hot season and less rainfall.

National Water Services

Commission (SPAN) chairman Charles Santiago advised consumers to be prudent and save water, following confirmation that water levels in rivers and dams which channel water to treatment plants, have fallen due to the ongoing dry spell.

Most places in Peninsular Malaysia are expected to experience dry weather with low rainfall until the end of March due to the north-east monsoon.

To ensure Selangor has enough water in its dams, residents need to use treated water sparingly.

For now, SPAN said the water supply in the peninsula and Labuan was still sufficient and under control.

"Avoid wastage so that water can be conserved for a longer period," said Santiago, who is also the Klang MP.

Last week, SPAN executive director (water regulatory department) Marzuki Mohammad said SPAN proposed a law to make labelling and the use of water-efficient devices mandatory.

Under this proposed law, bathroom fittings, washing machines and taps heads must have water efficiency ratings.

Zailani said various methods could be implemented to address responsible usage of treated water.

Rain harvesting was a method identified for water conservation. "Collecting rainwater from rooftops provides tremendous untapped opportunity to increase water supply for some of our water needs and people can reduce their dependence on treated water."

"Overall, rain harvesting can be viewed as an exercise that is environmentally responsible as it promotes a self-sustainable approach," he said.

Zailani said MPK has implemented the LCCF Action Plan where the council's Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department, a public toilet in Taman Sri

HOPING to supplement treated pipe water and curb flash floods, the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Town Planning Department plans to introduce a pilot scheme to instal rain harvesters at terrace houses in flood-prone neighbourhoods.

Town Planning Department director Zailani Panot said the council plans to broker a deal with a firm manufacturing rain harvesters so residents could buy the system including plumbing services at a reasonable price.

This, he said would encourage people to instal the system.

"Our aim is to ensure that the tanks provide free water to home owners and hold back rainwater during a downpour. Water collected from the houseowner's roof can be used to water the garden, wash the car and for flushing toilets. If it is not used, it can be released after the rain," he said.

Zailani added that the pilot scheme, once implemented, could help reduce flash floods, but not eliminate it.

MPK plans to introduce rain harvesters in flood-prone areas

"Sometimes, a downpour can quickly overwhelm the drains, but harvesting rainwater from rooftops controls the amount of surface runoff during a storm."

"We need the cooperation of all residents, in an area, to work with us and embrace the project that will benefit them," he said.

He added that consumers with a rain harvester system could reduce their water bills if they used rainwater for general washing.

"I believe incidents of flash floods can be controlled. Once we choose an area for the pilot scheme, we hope it receives good support. The people must know it is for their benefit as their water bills will be reduced and flash floods will lessen," he said.

Zailani added that MPK made it mandatory for new developments

in Klang to have rain harvesters.

"Based on the Housing and Local Government Ministry's directive for better water conservation, MPK came out with a policy in 2017 for all developers."

"It is stipulated that new all semi-detached houses and bungalows are fitted with rain harvesting systems with plumbing and a storage tank," he said.

He said the Town Planning Department plans to get developers to instal rain harvesters for all terrace houses and commercial buildings in Klang in the near future.

"We are in discussions with manufacturers of rain harvesters to see how viable and cost effective it would be to have such units installed in older developments."

Once details are firmed up, we will hold a fair where people can inquire and find a unit that best fits their home," he said.

Green Master Harvest Sdn Bhd director Low Pui San said people were aware of rainwater harvesting but many think it was expensive to instal a unit.

"Our rainwater harvesting system known as Voda, was created to cater for residential and business premises, and the system is reasonably priced. It is a low carbon system that does not require electrical pumps to pull water from its sources to the plumbing outlets as it only utilises gravitational force," she said.

Low added that the units were space-saving, easy to fix and durable.

"We have worked with many



Zailani says consumers with a rain harvester system can cut their water bill as less is used for general washing.

developers to achieve a sustainable environment. Our company is interested to work with MPK to help realise its aim for a better environment," she added.



MPK assistant valuation officer in charge of green projects Muhammad Ariff Kamzah (left) with resident Syed Nazrul Syam at Perdana Villa. Water to nourish the plants in the area is from a rain harvester.



Rainwater collected from rain harvesters is then transferred to water tankers to water potted plants in Klang. — Photos: EDWARD RAJENDRA and AFIQUE YUSOFF/The Star



The use of heavy duty pipes can prevent incidents of pipe leaks at restaurants.



Ari says the rooftop of a standard home collects over 350 gallons from 1.27cm of rain.

Andalas and three wet markets in Kapar, Meru and Port Klang, each use a 10,000-gallon water harvesting system.

"The SWM Department uses rainwater to wash the garbage compactors and huge bins. Others use it for cleaning purposes. This resulted in a 30% drop in the council's monthly water bill," he said.

Zailani added that the rain harvester project materialised because Selangor Economic Planning Unit supported MPK financially in setting up the system costing RM78,480.

Klang council Commissioner of Building director Ari Adam said rain harvesting has many benefits, but the main one was towards the implementation of sustainable water management practices either by using a simple tub or installing a comprehensive rain harvesting system that integrates with household plumbing.

"People might not think it is possible to get enough rain but the rooftop of a standard home can collect more than 350 gallons from 1.27cm of rain, making rain harvesting worth the effort," he said.

Ari added that under the Low

Carbon High-Rise Residential Buildings' initiative, Perdana Villa comprising five blocks of high-rise apartments at Jalan Temenggung off Jalan Sungai Jati in Klang were installed with rain harvesters.

Water collected is used to water residents' herb garden, fruit trees and for general washing.

"We found that storing rainwater and using it later helps alleviate storm water runoff, curbing the drainage networks from overflowing," Ari said.

Gardens and Recreational Department director Nurul Huda Bahrom, who oversees MPK's green landscape in the township, said her department, started using rainwater to water potted plants throughout the township and in public parks.

"Plants at our nurseries are watered using rainwater collected in rain harvesters," she said. Zailani reiterated that rain harvesting has much to contribute to future solutions and was a natural move towards the LCCF strategy to reduce wastage of treated water and reuse rainwater, giving natural water sources a chance to replenish.



A Solid Waste Management Department worker washing a lorry with rainwater collected from a rain harvester.



MPK Town Planning Department is looking to introduce a wall-mounted rain harvesting system using gravity to channel water to the toilets or for watering plants.



ROAD CLOSURE

● There will be closure on the left-most lane along the South Klang Valley Expressway slip road and Persiaran Sierra Utama until April 11, from 8am to 10pm, to facilitate the implementation of traffic management plan, machinery relocation, pier construction works and other related works. Motorists are advised to follow traffic signage and flagman's directions.

● There will be a long-term road closure on Jalan Tropicana Selatan 1 (opposite Merchant Square) to facilitate preliminary works for the LRT3 project from March 8 to July 17, 2020. Flagmen will control traffic using the contraflow method. Directional signage will also be displayed. For details, call 1 800 18 2585 (LRT 3).

● There will be continuation of full bound closure by stages and activation of alternative routes along Jalan Kepong Garden (Selayang-bound, Kepong-bound, Pekan Kepong-bound and Taman Kepong Garden-bound) until June 2. Construction works are from 10pm to 6am for three months, intermittently. The closure is to facilitate the launch of segmental box girder and other works for the MRT SSP Line.

INDIAN ASTROLOGY

A workshop on the ancient Indian science of construction called Vasthu Sastra and astrology will be held on April 7 at Summit Hotel in Subang Jaya. The 9am to 5pm event will be conducted by Vasthu author and columnist T. Selva and Vasthu master Yuvaraj Sowma from Chennai, India. For details, call 012-329 9713 (Ragam) or visit www.vasthusastra.com

BOOK DONATION

Great Eastern Takaful is conducting a book donation drive for the children of Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Gabong in Pahang. The public can drop off their old books at the Weld Shopping Centre's information desk in Kuala Lumpur until March 31.

BAZAAR APPLICATION

Traders interested to operate a stall at Ramadan bazaars in Kuala Lumpur can apply for a spot via Kuala Lumpur City Hall's website at <http://elesen.dbkl.gov.my/ebazar> until March 14.

FREE MEDITATION COURSE

Erdi Buddhist Temple in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur will be organising meditation classes for beginners starting March 9 from 2pm to 3.30pm. The fifth intake will see students going through 12 classes in total. For details, call 016-695 5885 (Sally) or visit www.facebook.com/erdivihara

ANTENATAL CLASS

Columbia Asia Hospital in Seremban will be organising an Antenatal Class on March 16 from 9am to 2pm. The event will be held at the hospital's north wing. For details, call 06-6033 988 (Fatin).

RADIO MBI

Ipoh City Council will have a daily 'MBI and You' segment on its Radio MBI programme to allow the public to voice their complaints or views from 9am to 10am. Tune in by visiting radio.mbi.gov.my or download the app from Google Play or Appstore. For details, call 05-208 3406.

ILLEGAL DUMPSTIE HOTLINE

Ipoh City Council is getting the public's help to clean up illegal dumpsites in areas under its jurisdiction. Those with information should WhatsApp the city council's town services hotline at 019-550 3083. MetroPerak is also extending its help in eradicating the problem. Should the public face difficulties in reaching the council, they can email metroperak@thestar.com.my