KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 6 OGOS 2014 (RABU)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH : 6 OGOS 2014 (RABU)

OTHMAN (kanan) dan Shahidan menunjukkan perkakasan elektrik yang dirampas.

15% PRODUK BOLEH MEMBUNUH!

■ Keluaran barang elektrik berkualiti rendah dari China palsu logo serta tanda SIRIM

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Putrajaya

Awas! Barangan elektrik yang anda gunakan mungkin berjenama popular dan ada lambang kelulusan Institut Piawaian dan Penyelidikan Perindustrian Malaysia atau SIRIM serta Suruhanjaya Tenaga (ST), namun boleh mengancam nyawa kerana berkualiti rendah.

Ini kerana ST mendedahkan sekurang-kurangnya 15 peratus perkakasan elektrik yang terdapat di pasaran sebenarnya tidak memiliki kelulusan SIRIM/ST, sekali gus mengundang risiko kepada pengguna.

Pengarah Penguatkuasaan dan Penyelarasan Kawasan ST Othman Omar berkata, siasatan pihaknya mendapati produk berkualiti rendah itu dibuat di China dan diseludup masuk ke negara ini dengan pelbagai helah.

Menurutnya, produk itu mengundang bahaya kepada pengguna kerana ia tidak melalui ujian ketahanan dan keselamatan dari segi saiz dan fizikal ditetapkan.

"Kami juga kesan ada produk itu diubah jenama asal ketika di luar negara lagi. Jenama asal mungkin tidak begitu terkenal, jadi produk itu diubah kepada jenama terkemuka untuk melepasi pemeriksaan pihak berkuasa.

"Selepas berada dalam negara, sindiket menjual produk itu pada harga murah kerana mereka tahu, orang kita gemar barangan murah terutama diimport dari luar," katanya ketika ditemui Harian Metro, di sini.

Hadir sama, Ketua Penguatkuasaan ST Shahidan Baharom.

Othman berkata, pihaknya mengesan kegiatan terbabit ketika membuat pemeriksaan dengan kerjasama SIRIM serta Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan (KPDNKK) dalam beberapa siri operasi.

"Hasil serbuan sepanjang tahun ini saja, kami merampas pelbagai perkakasan elektrik tanpa kelulusan sah yang nilainya dianggarkan lebih RM55,000,"

Antara jenis perkakasan elektrik dirampas ialah seterika, ketuhar, periuk nasi, soket, pemboleh ubah tenaga dan lampu tidur.

"Semua kelengkapan elektrik itu dirampas kerana ia tidak selamat dan boleh menyebabkan kecederaan serius kepada pengguna," katanya.

Menurut Othman, sindiket yang menyeludup masuk barangan elektrik berkualiti rendah itu bijak mengelirukan pihak berkuasa dan orang awam dengan menyalahgunakan logo kelulusan SIRIM/ST.

"Siasatan kami mendapati logo diguna diberikan untuk produk lain. Ada juga perkakasan yang tertera logo SIRIM/ST, tetapi masih tidak menepati piawaian.

"Contohnya, alat soket penyambung apabila hanya di kepala plug saja mempunyai cop stiker kelulusan SIRIM/ST, tetapi tiada cop di bahagian wayar atau soket tiga pin," katanya.

Berikutan itu, kata Othman, pihaknya menyerahkan kepada Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) senarai perkakasan elektrik diimport dari China dan didapati tidak memenuhi piawaian standard supaya dihalang memasuki pasaran negara ini.

"Sebab itu kita buat pemantauan berkala kerana mahu memastikan barangan digunakan selamat dan diuji sepenuhnya sebelum digunakan. Cuma budaya orang kita suka membeli barangan murah.

"ST mengalu-alukan kerjasama orang ramai untuk memaklumkan sebarang aktiviti mencurigakan berkaitan isu kecurian elektrik dan penjualan kelengkapan elektrik yang tidak selamat bagi mengelakkan sebarang masalah.," katanya.

74 mati kes litar pintas

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 74 kematian akibat kebakaran berpunca daripada litar pintas kerana penggunaan barangan elektrik dicatatkan Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) sepanjang Januari hinga Mei tahun ini.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Operasi) Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Datuk Soiman Jahid berkata, dalam semua kes itu kebakaran berlaku kerana barangan elektrik digunakan rosak, tamat tempoh, digigit binatang seperti tikus sehingga menyebabkan litar pintas berlaku.

Ditanya sebab lain berlakunya kebakaran di rumah membabitkan barangan elektrik, Soiman berkata, penggunaan sambungan ataupun soket berlebihan juga menjadi penyebab utama.

"Penggunaan barangan elektrik seperti soket ataupun sambungan perlu ada kelulusan SIRIM. Saya tahu, segelintir pihak mengambil jalan mudah membeli barangan murah, namun ia sebenarnya merisikokan mereka," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE SUN (SPEAK UP) : MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH: 06 OGOS 2014 (RABU)

What's wrong with water rationing?

WHY does the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) have to wait for the Selangor government to decide if another round of water rationing is required?

Isn't SPAN, which was set up in 2007, supposed to be the national technical and economic regulator for water services?

"We have had no application from the state to impose water rationing yet," was how SPAN's corporate communication director Carol Pelly brushed off a situation in which the supply shortages are already at critical levels in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

The Meteorological Department has warned that the dry weather is expected to hit the state from this week until next month, coupled with the El Nino phenomenon that has set in and due to last till early next year.

If SPAN is to wait for the Selangor government to decide on water rationing, it might not come because the water issue in the state is highly politicised even as Mentri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim is fighting the battle of his life trying to keep his job amid determined efforts by his own party, PKR, to oust him.

Despite all the telling signs that the water level at the Sungai Selangor dam has dropped to a critical level, Khalid is unfazed.

On Friday, he said that the water level at Sungai Selangor is adequate for normal consumption following cloud seeding over water catchment areas.

"There is no need for us to carry out water rationing," Khalid insisted.

It's the kind of remark that was meant to be "populist" but at what price?

Now, come on SPAN, are you still waiting for the mentri besar to decide on this or will another round of rationing be carried out when it's too late? For once, please do what you need to do and justify your existence.

An NGO, the Guild of Bumiputra Contractors Wibawa Bhd (GBC), is so angry with SPAN's indecision that it asked in a statement: "Why doesn't SPAN perform its function?" It said SPAN being an independent regulator and adviser to the minister of energy, green technology and water could act on its own instead of prolonging the water crisis.

"If SPAN doesn't take into account the interest of consumers and won't take proactive measures, we appeal to the prime minister and the minister of energy, green technology and water to just dissolve this commission because it doesn't do anything to protect the rights of water consumers," said GBC chairman Datuk Mohd Said Mat Saman.

Mohd Said wants SPAN to stop its "wait and see" game because it brings very high risks and undermines on a huge scale business and industry, adding that SPAN should go to the ground to resolve the prolonged crisis.

"Just ignore the water politics played out in Selangor and prioritise the interests of consumers because water is the nerve for this rapidly growing state," said Mohd Said, who deserves praise for his strongly-worded statement highly critical of ineptness that has crept in among water industry players.

What's wrong with water rationing?

Khalid should not condition the people of Selangor against such a measure because in a situation where there's just not enough water, rationing is logical and practical.

Rationing was imposed in six districts in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya in February when in the same month the federal and Selangor governments signed a deal that allows the state to take over the four water concessionaires and to proceed with the vital Langat 2 treatment plant that has been delayed for years because the state government earlier refused to grant a development order for its construction.

On hindsight, it was a mistake to lift the water rationing in May barely a few months after it was implemented when the situation was still critical.

And last week, as pressure within his own party mounted for him to quit, the embattled Khalid finally signed the Heads of Agreement between the state and federal governments to pave the way for the restructuring of the state's water industry which has been his preoccupation – even obsession – ever since he became MB six years ago.

Yes, he has achieved his dream of taking over the state's water assets with the signing of the agreement and to me, the best part of the deal is that the Langat 2 plant and the Distribution System Project can now proceed after such a long delay to ensure long-term water supply.

It's far too early or even an illusion to say if by the state government taking over the privatised concessionaires, the industry would be better managed because the heavy-politicking and political dramas that have been played out these last few years over water might not go away, especially with the uncertainty over Khalid's own political future.

Khalid's policy of giving free water for the first 20 cubic metres of consumption – which is a lot of water for an average household – since the Pakatan Rakyat government came to power in 2008 worsens the water woes because it has led to tremendous wastage.

And one wonders how the restructuring which reportedly would cost RM7 billion would help the state financially given the free water policy.

Former minister and Selangor Umno chief Datuk Seri Noh Omar is happy over the signing of the water restructuring deal but likened the move as Khalid having "woken up from his dream", referring to the MB who has all these years trivialised all warnings of a water crisis. In April, I wrote that Khalid should own up over water and this same message was repeated last week by Klang MP Charles Santiago, who demanded that the MB initiate rationing.

"He should not play stupid (in this issue) in order to ensure his political survival," Santiago said, adding that without rationing Selangor would have no water supply by the end of this month.

Santiago's warning is also applicable to SPAN. It's SPAN's call now.

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