

Blaming water crisis on UMS unacceptable — Warisan

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KOTA KINABALU: Parti Warisan has urged the State Water Department to take full responsibility for the prolonged water supply disruptions at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and surrounding areas, saying attempts to blame the university are misleading and unacceptable.

Merotai assemblyman and Warisan Kalabakan chief Sarifuddin Hata criticised the

department for issuing a recent statement suggesting that damaged pumps and meters within the UMS campus were to blame for the crisis.

"That claim is baseless and misleading. The water shortage is not limited to UMS. It is happening in areas like Tuaran and Sepanggar too. This clearly reflects a systemic failure in the delivery of basic services,"

Sarifuddin said.

He also backed UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansur, who described the department's claim as "misleading" and "an insult," especially given the students' recent public protest over the dire conditions.

"When students are forced to gather and protest due to prolonged water shortages, it's a

sign that the authorities are not listening. Blaming the university only adds insult to injury," Sarifuddin said.

He explained that the water issue stems not from UMS's internal infrastructure, but from the department's inability to supply adequate water, a problem compounded by the university's hilly location and the low water pressure it receives.