

PENANG

By LO TERN CHERN
andylo@thestar.com.my

Long wait for Sg Perak raw water not over yet

Penang exploring five other options after meeting with Perak MB to ink supply deal falls through

WITH no sign of a go-ahead for the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) and the possibility of facing another delay, Penang is looking into alternative plans for its water needs.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said five projects under a contingency plan would help support the state's water needs until 2050.

"SPRWTS is a raw water project that requires seven years to complete.

"It was first delayed in 2013 and again in 2018.

"We are now looking at a possible third delay.

"During a recent meeting with the Perak Menteri Besar, we told him that we wanted to sign an agreement this year and start the project next year for it to be completed by 2030," said Jaseni in a press conference at Komtar in George Town, Penang.

Perak had said it was unable to supply raw water from Sungai Perak to Penang as proposed under SPRWTS, because studies indicated that the state did not have enough water for its own use.

SPRWTS has been proposed by PBAPP to tap Sungai Perak as a second and alternative raw water resource to meet future water demand needs for Penang and northern Perak.

However, Jaseni said the five projects were under its Raw Water Contingency Plan 2030 (RWCP 2030) to ensure water supply security for Penang.

Under RWCP 2030, it would produce 569 million litres per day (MLD), thus increasing the maximum design capacity from the current 1,599 MLD to 2,168 MLD.

Among the plans are to complete two upgrading projects at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant, build two new water treatment plants near the Mengkuang and Sungai Muda Dams as well as explore Sungai Perai as an additional raw water source.



Teachers mingling with the PBAPP mascot during the launch of the 'Negalitres for Schools' at Komtar. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

On Penang's plan to increase water tariff to raise funds and implement RWCP 2030 projects, Jaseni said PBAPP submitted its application to the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) at the end of last month.

"We have to renew our licence every three years and have submitted our business plan for between 2023 and 2025 to SPAN.

"The water tariff review is part of the business plan but details are confidential until approved," said Jaseni.

He added that all states have put in their submissions and the plans would be reviewed by the Environment and Water Ministry

before they are tabled in Cabinet for final approval.

The results are expected to be known within three months.

Earlier, Jaseni and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow launched a water conservation programme for schools in Penang.

The water management project dubbed "Negalitres for Schools" is targeting 100 schools for the installation of water-saving equipment and education on ways to reduce water consumption.

Water Watch Penang president Prof Dr Chan Ngai Weng said the project would involve a maximum of 34 schools per year, including primary and secondary level,



Prof Chan believes a water conservation programme for schools will help save at least 10% of water consumption.



Jaseni says a water tariff review is part of a business plan that has been submitted to SPAN.

encompassing two components — software and hardware.

"Apart from replacing parts such as taps, we will educate teachers and students on conserving water.

"At least 3,000 students will be educated on reducing consumption of treated water and 600 teachers trained.

"We believe the programme will help save at least 10% of water consumption," he said.

Chow, in his speech, said water shortage was a national issue.

"I think the attitude towards water is very important.

"If a person does not realise the value of water, then he or she will not appreciate water.

"We are not short of water supply, but in need of better water management as a whole," he said.

By R. SEKARAN
rsekaran@thestar.com.my

Heritage aqueduct still serving faithfully in Batu Ferringhi

PENANG is abundant with heritage trails, especially water catchment areas, that have waterfalls and stream rock pools along forest routes.

One such area is the Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct, which is near the Batu Ferringhi dam or cascading waterfall, managed by Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP).

Aqueducts move water through gravity alone, along a slight overall downward gradient within conduits of stone, brick, concrete or lead.

They are structures used to conduct water stream across a hollow or valley.

The first aqueduct was built by Appius Claudius for the city of Rome in 312 BC.

Back then, the Romans laid underground pipes and constructed siphons throughout the landscape.

Workers dug winding channels underground and created networks of water from the source lake or basin into Rome.

"The Batu Ferringhi Aqueduct is a heritage water supply installation where raw water is channelled purely by gravity flow, without any pumping process," said PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa.

The aqueduct, at a total length of 6.05km, channels raw water to the Guillemard Water Treatment Plant in Tanjung Bungah.



The Batu Ferringhi aqueduct is still being used to channel raw water to the Guillemard Water Treatment Plant in Tanjung Bungah.

sourced from five intakes in Batu Ferringhi, which was part of a 1,197ha forest protected as water catchments.

"Elevated at 111.3m above sea level, it is still serving faithfully since being commissioned in 1929," he added.

According to historical records, fresh water was brought from the Botanic Gardens' hills through an aqueduct.

In 1804, the then Lieutenant Governor R.T. Farquhar commenced an elaborate system of

waterworks where earthenware pipes were laid through the streets while tin pipes channelled water to houses.

One hundred convicts were tasked with constructing this aqueduct, while many more were tasked with making the bricks.

The aqueduct was laid along Waterfall Road, Gottlieb Road and Burma Road, down to Anson Road, Larut Road, Northam Road and ending at the present Eastern and Oriental (E&O) Hotel, where a large tank was installed to supply water

to the ships in the harbour.

According to records, Sir Stamford Raffles was so impressed with Penang's water supply system that in a letter written on Aug 2, 1824, he said:

"The best and finest drinking water is supplied at 'Puleoe Pinang' as it springs from Strawberry Hills, whence it is carried by aqueducts four English miles in length to the town and the government water tanks."

In 1919, municipal water engineer J.D. Fettes created a scheme to increase the water supply by tapping water from Batu Ferringhi Valley.

It provided for an aqueduct more than two kilometres in length, collected 8.7 litres of water a day from the valley and brought it to "Telok Tikus" through a 61cm pipe to a proposed service reservoir on Mount Erskine.

Preliminary survey work on the proposed reservoir commenced in 1923 and was completed in August 1924.

Construction was then undertaken and the Guillemard Reservoir was opened in 1929.

Aqueducts are still used today and in Rome, some aqueducts are still used to bring water to some of the city's fountains.

STAR METRO INFO BASE

PERLIS	
EMERGENCY	
POLICE & AMBULANCE	999
FIRE	999
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	103
ENQUIRIES/FAULTS	100
INTERNATIONAL OPERATOR	101
RESCUE	999

VOLUNTARY FIRE SQUADS

AIR HITAM	04-794 0096
BUKIT PINANG	04-714 4259
CHANGLUN	04-924 1403
GUAR CHEMPEDAK	04-468 6716
KAMPUNG BARU	04-468 6760
KODIANG	04-925 5455
KUALA KEDAH	04-762 1554
POKOK SENA	04-782 1318
TUNJANG	04-929 1386

USEFUL CONTACTS

PADANG BESAR IMMIGRATION	
	04-949 0305
PADANG BESAR CUSTOMS	04-949 3168
TRADE ENFORCEMENT	04-979 5000
ANTI-SMUGGLING UNIT	04-979 1500
ACA	04-976 3982
ARAU RAILWAY STATION	04-986 1225
PERLIS STATE PARK	04-978 2812/04-976 5966
PERLIS SNAKE FARM	04-976 8511
KANGAR HOSPITAL	04-976 3333
KANGAR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	04-976 2188/977 2000
PUBLIC WORKS (GENERAL)	
	04-976 4510/ 976 3041
JPJ	04-976 0097
REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT	
	04-976 1217
TENAGA NASIONAL	04-976 0440

FIRE & RESCUE DEPT

KANGAR	04-976 0544
PADANG BESAR	04-949 0094
ARAU	04-986 4444
KUALA PERLIS	04-985 5332

PUBLIC SERVICE

CIVIL DEFENCE	04-976 2510
RELIGIOUS DEPT	04-979 4400

POLICE STATIONS

ARAU	04-986 1222
PADANG BESAR	04-949 0824
KANGAR	04-908 2222
KUALA PERLIS	04-985 2222

OTHERS

KUALA PERLIS FERRY TERMINAL	
	04-978 1235
PERLIS TAXI ASSOCIATION	04-976 5293
PERLIS YOUTH AND	
SPORTS COMPLEX	04-979 3505
PERLIS STATE LIBRARY	04-976 4436
PERLIS TOURISM	
ACTION COUNCIL	04-976 3700
PERLIS MUSEUM	04-977 1366
KAYANG ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM	
	04-977 0027

#OPBANTU WHATSAPP

KANGAR	013-4412271
ARAU	013-4589271
PADANG BESAR	019-8423194