

PBAPP drafts PWSI 2050 to mitigate Penang raw water shortage risk

08/09/2020 05:29 PM



GEORGE TOWN, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang (PBAPP) has drafted a Penang Water Supply Initiative 2050 (PWSI 2050) to outline three contingency plans to mitigate the raw water shortage risk faced by Penang.

PBAPP chief executive officer, Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa today said the PWSI 2050 was necessary due to three key factors, namely the altered rainfall patterns in Penang affected by climate change, decreasing raw water supply in Sungai Muda and the negotiation with Perak on the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) which had reached a stalemate.

He said the three contingency plans included the construction of a new 114 MLD (million litres per day) water treatment module in the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant, Sungai Perai Water Supply Scheme (SPWSS) and Phase 1 of the Penang Desalination Water Supply Scheme (PDWSS).

“PBAPP has commissioned a feasibility study on its proposed PWSI 2050 projects.

“The feasibility study is being conducted by an independent engineering consultant and is scheduled for completion by January next year,” he said at a press conference, here, today.

The SPWSS is aimed at tapping Sungai Perai as an additional raw water resource for Penang and would explore the possibility of employing alternative water treatment technologies to treat the raw water properly for consumption.



Meanwhile, Phase 1 of PDWSS, which is scheduled for commissioning in December 2024, proposes the construction of a sea water desalination facility in the southern area of Penang Island.

According to Jaseni, PWSI 2050 has an overall potential yield of 500 MLD of water for Penang.

He said all aspects of the PWSI 2050 projects, including the budgets, timing, public tenders and implementation policies would be subject to prior approval by the Penang government.

He also stressed that PWSI 2050 did not compromise nor affect implementation of the SPRWTS by the federal government, abstraction of raw water from Sungai Muda and preservation of 160,000 hectares of rainforest in Ulu Muda.

“The primary objective of PWSI 2050 is to introduce additional water supply projects that will help us meet future water demands.

“For the long term, Penang will still need the SPRWTS, raw water from Sungai Muda and preservation of Ulu Muda to ensure raw water security towards 2050,” he said.

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