

PBAPP explores solar energy to save more on electricity bills

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GEORGE TOWN, March 23 -- The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) is exploring a solar energy system which has helped reduce costs and electricity consumption bills at average of RM22,811 a month at the Bukit Dumbar Water Reservoir and Pumping Station Complex here.

Chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the 1.5 MWp (peak Megawatt) solar energy system was installed by Penang-based PSB Energy Sdn Bhd (PSB) at no cost to PBAPP.

"Instead of paying for the system, PBAPP signed an agreement with PSB to pay a solar tariff of 30.5 sen/kWh for a period of 25 years. This solar tariff is lower than the commercial tariff imposed by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB)," he said in a statement here, today.

Jaseni said the solar energy system in Bukit Dumbar had generated savings on electricity bills of RM22,811 monthly average for PBAPP for a period of six months.

"Following the operations of the system on July 31, 2020, PBAPP's electricity cost decreased by RM136,868 for the period of August 2020 to January 2021 compared to that of the February 2020 to July 2020 period. The projected cost savings for a full year is RM273,732," he said.

According to the agreement, PSB is also responsible for the maintenance of the system throughout the term of the agreement. An online monitoring system had been installed on site to monitor the performance of the system, Jaseni said, adding that in order to capture solar energy, a total of 4,586 photovoltaic solar panels had been installed on top of the Bukit Dumbar R2 and R3 covered reservoirs.

He said the installed panels convert solar energy into electricity that is channelled to a 415V/11kV power boost transformer. "After the process, electricity is distributed into the power supply system for the Bukit Dumbar 1 and Bukit Dumbar 2 Pumping Stations.

"In this way, electricity generated from utilising solar energy at the Bukit Dumbar Reservoir and Pumping Station Complex is used in the area for 24-hour treated water pumping operations," he said, adding that PBAPP is now looking for options to install similar solar energy systems at other facilities in Penang to achieve more cost savings.