

Third set of pipelines boosting water supply security

By **RENA LIM**
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THE third set of the Penang Twin Submarine Pipelines (PTSP) is now completed and delivering up to 315 million litres of treated water per day (MLD) from Seberang Prai to Penang island.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the new set of PTSP was delivering treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant in Seberang Prai to the Bukit Dumbar reservoir and pumping station on the island.

“From Bukit Dumbar, the treated water is primarily pumped to the highly populated and economically significant southern areas of the island including the Bayan Lepas Industrial Park.

“The treated water may also be pumped to as far as Balik Pulau to support continuous good water supply, especially during dry seasons,” he said in a statement.

The third set of PTSP was commissioned in Nov 19 last year as a key component of PBAPP’s ongoing contingency plan to ensure water supply sufficiency on the island.

It was commissioned under a project of four packages of work costing RM114.3mil.

“The commissioning of this third PTSP is our pledge to sustain continuous good water supply on the island now and in the post-pandemic recovery era.



The third set of PTSP delivers treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant in Seberang Prai to Penang island. — Filepic

“In 1973, when the first PTSP was commissioned, the average water consumption on the island was at 93.3 MLD.

“In 2020, the figure reached 368 MLD. This is a 394% increase over the past 48 years.

“This rise coupled with climate change has affected water supply security on the island.

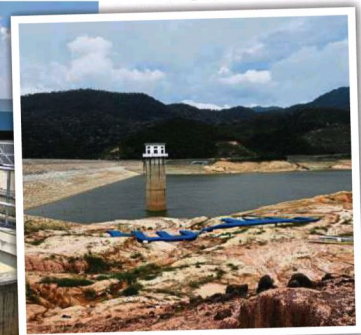
“On Sept 5 last year, the effective capacity of Teluk Bahang Dam dropped to 16.0% while the capacity

at Air Itam Dam dropped to 33.3%.”

“Now, we can pump more water safely from the Sungai Dua plant to the island on a daily basis.

“The availability of more treated water helps mitigate the danger posed by climate change and prolonged dry seasons.

“With the third PTSP, we have the option to further minimise drawdowns from the Ayer Itam and Teluk Bahang dams daily during dry seasons.



The Teluk Bahang Dam during the dry season last year. — Filepic

“Now we can pump more water safely from the Sungai Dua plant to the island on a daily basis.”

Jaseni Maidinsa

“This will prolong the reserves of the both dams until the rain arrives to replenish the dams from September to December yearly.”

Jaseni said the third PTSP and the expanded Mengkuang Dam which was handed back to the state last October by the Environment and Water Ministry are the two newest key components of the state’s water supply infrastructure.

“Both will help to mitigate water shortage until 2025.”