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RM800mil federal govt projects boost Penang water supply resilience



Penang Water Supply Corporation chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said the federal government is implementing water supply projects worth more than RM800 million in Penang to boost resilience and long-term security.
— STR/AMINAH YUSO

GEORGE TOWN: The federal government is implementing water supply projects worth more than RM800 million in Penang to boost resilience and long-term security.

Penang Water Supply Corporation chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry (Petra), through its Water Supply Division, is undertaking five projects with a total estimated cost of RM837.5 million.

Among the key projects is a new Sungai Muda barrage at Rantau Panjang in Seberang Prai Utara, costing RM175 million and scheduled for completion in 2027.

"It will replace a 1973 structure and prevent seawater intrusion while improving river level control for water abstraction," he said today.

Pathmanathan said another major component is the final stage of the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Plan, costing RM214 million and targeted for completion in 2028.

"This includes a 440 million litres per day (MLD) raw water pump house in Lahar Yooi and a 400MLD reversible flow pipeline linking it to the Expanded Mengkuang Dam.

"The new infrastructure will allow faster refilling of the dam during wet seasons and significantly increase its drawdown capacity during dry periods.

"This will raise the dam's maximum drawdown capacity from 600MLD to 1,000MLD, strengthening its role as a backup to Sungai Muda and reducing disruption risks," he added.

He added that a RM419 million allocation has also been earmarked for raw water resource projects in Sungai Kerian, including feasibility studies to expand the Bukit Panchor Dam and develop an off-river storage scheme.

Timelines for these works will be determined after studies are completed in 2026.

Other works include RM26.5 million for water intake upgrades in Teluk Bahang, scheduled for completion in 2029, and a RM3 million statewide raw water study.

Pathmanathan said the projects are separate from PBAPP's Water Contingency Plan 2030 and the proposed Perak-Penang Water Project.

"Penang remains water-stressed. These projects are critical to ensuring sustainable supply and supporting the Penang2030 vision," he said.

Sungai Muda remains Penang's main raw water source, with about 1,000MLD abstracted for treatment at the Sungai Dua plant, supplying some 465,000 consumers across the state.