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Tuesday, 20 September 2016

Southern Penang gets uninterrupted water supply



PBAPP senior chieftain Mohd Yusri Awang checking the reading of a pump at the newly opened Bukit Dumbar Pump Station 2 in Penang.

CONTINUOUS good water supply to the Bayan Lepas Free Trade Zone, Penang International Airport and southern parts of Penang island is now better guaranteed following the commission of a new water pump station at Bukit Dumbar.

Called BD2, it could pump up to 270 million litres of water per day (MLD) to serve 315,000 people living in the southern parts of the island.

Its service areas cover Gelugor, Batu Uban, Sungai Nibong, Bayan Baru, Relau, Sungai Ara, Batu Maung, Bayan Lepas, Permatang Damar Laut, Teluk Kumbar, Gertak Sanggul, Genting and Balik Pulau.

Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the RM11.9mil BD2 would complement the operations of the Bukit Dumbar Pump Station 1 (BD1) that had been in service since 1980.

He said it would improve pumping efficiency of water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant on the mainland to southern areas of the island which were undergoing rapid socio-economic development.

“Treated water from the Sungai Dua plant is delivered to Bukit Dumbar daily via twin submarine pipeline,” Jaseni said at the launching of BD2 on Sunday.

He said BD2 would also reduce pumping costs to the Bukit Gedong Reservoir daily to support the treated water needs of Teluk Kumbar, Gertak Sanggul and Balik Pulau.

“During the recent six-month Super El Nino season, BD1 played a key role in ensuring that there was no water rationing in key areas on Penang island.



A general view of the RM11.9mil station in Bukit Dumbar.

“Having learnt from the Super El Nino experience and looking ahead, PBAPP has been planning and implementing projects such as the BD2 to further minimise the risks of a water crisis,” he added.

Jaseni said water demand in Penang had increased by 9.3% from an average of 744 MLD in 2008 to 813 MLD last year.

“The projected demand for 2050 is 1,884 MLD,” he said.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said that in the past six months, PBAPP had commissioned three other water supply infrastructure projects.

They are the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant upgrade costing RM54.9mil, two new reinforced concrete reservoirs in Jawi (RM16.7mil) and a 900m pipeline from Sungai Keluang to the Penang International Airport roundabout (RM6mil).

Lim, who is also PBAPP chairman, said the state government objected to a Federal Government proposal to reduce the size of the key pipeline that connects the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project to the Sungai Dua canal.

“The modified design will reduce the delivery of water from the dam to the canal by 40%, from 1,000 MLD to 600 MLD,” he added.