

Ulu Muda conservation crucial for NCER success - PBAHB CEO

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Jaseni Maidinsa

GEORGE TOWN, July 27 (Bernama) -- The Ulu Muda water catchment area should be conserved for the socioeconomic initiatives in the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) to be implemented effectively, said Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa.

Jaseni, who is also PBA Holdings Bhd (PBAHB) CEO, today said water supply would be a critical factor for the socioeconomic development in NCER in the future and three of the four states in the NCER were dependent on Ulu Muda for their raw water supply.

“The NCER ‘regional mindset’ should also be applied to the conservation and protection of the Ulu Muda, the most important water catchment area in the NCER,” he said in a statement here.

The NCER was established in 2007 as one of the economic corridors to provide equitable growth in Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak with the vision of turning the region into a world-class economic region of choice by 2025.

“To qualify as a world-class economic region, the NCER needs to have water supply security. All aspects of the NCER vision are dependent on long-term water supply sustainability,” he said.

Jaseni said the Ulu Muda catchment area is an essential natural resource which is crucial for the development of Chuping Valley Industrial Area and Perlis Inland Port in Perlis, Kedah Science and Technology Park and Kedah Rubber City, and Batu Kawan Development Area in Penang.

He said about 96 per cent of raw water in Kedah, 80 per cent in Penang and 70 per cent in Perlis are abstracted daily from this catchment area via Sungai Muda and by encompassing 163,103 hectares of rainforests, it is the largest water catchment area in the NCER.

“Ulu Muda must be protected as an NCER water catchment in perpetuity,” he said.

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