

Options being considered for Perak-Penang water deal



Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa (right). Pix by Shahnaz Fazlie Shahrizal

By Mohamed Basyir - May 30, 2019 @ 3:33pm

GEORGE TOWN: The federal government is looking at several options in carrying out Phase 1 of the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) project.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry was studying the proposals and had an active role to play as arbitrator between Penang and Perak over the project.

“When it involves a large volume interstate water transfer, it has to be raw water. However it is natural for the supplying state to offer sale of treated water instead.

“The same scenario has happened in the past involving Pahang - Selangor and even Johor - Melaka with the government acting as an arbitrator. This is what we are pushing for.

“Federal (government) has a huge role because the finance comes from it. In the Pahang - Selangor case, federal played an active role and even constructed tunnel for the water supply to Selangor.

“The Phase 1 of SPRWTS must be completed by 2025, or we will face the same consequences as what Selangor faced recently where its water supply disruption affected many people because of the maintenance work at its treatment plant,” he said at a press conference today.

He met the press along with Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow after the PBAPP Annual General Meeting held here.

Chow said the private sector has submitted its proposal for the project to both the state governments as well as Putrajaya.

“We want to ensure that the project starts as soon as possible with the year 2025 as a completion date so that it can supplement the water source from Sungai Muda,” he said.

The SPRWTS was proposed following an independent masterplan study commissioned by the PBAPP in 2009.

According to PBAPP, Sungai Perak is the best option as its raw water resource is presently underutilised.

As such, the Penang government and PBAPP have been seeking to tap Sungai Perak as the second or alternative raw water resource for the state since 2011.

The SPRWTS involves the construction of a water tunnel to channel raw water from Sungai Perak upstream to Sungai Ijok, which will flow to Sungai Kerian.

The raw water will then be extracted from Sungai Kerian, where a water treatment plant will be built on the Penang side of the border.