



(From left) Jaseni, Lim, Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon and other officials checking the newly upgraded Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant in Sungai Dua, Kepala Batas.

# No more dry taps with plant upgrade

Penang's water treatment artery gets RM54.9mil overhaul

THE Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (SDWTP) in north Seberang Prai, which was upgraded at a cost of RM54.9mil, will ensure sufficient water supply in Penang.

Dubbed as Penang's Most Highly Evolved Water Treatment Plant, the SDWTP saw upgrading works completed in January, to brace for the dry spell in March and April.

Located on a 18.2ha site in Sungai Dua, the plant receives raw water sourced from Sungai Muda, pumped through a 14km canal from Lahar Tiang. The plant is capable of treating 1,228 mil litres of raw water daily.

Treated water from the plant is then transported through 27.2km of steel pipelines laid in Seberang Prai for distribution to Butterworth and Prai, and through 3.66km of twin submerged pipelines to the island.

Speaking at the opening of the upgraded plant yesterday, Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the plant supplies more than 80% of Penang's

treated water daily.

"There are nine treatment plants and SDWTP is the only one that can meet the demand or shortfall with a 36% reserve margin of treated water," he said in his speech.

He noted that the plant had undergone seven major upgrading works since the official opening of the Sungai Muda Water Scheme by the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein in 1973.

"Water consumption in Penang has increased by 469.2% from 52.1mil cu m in 1973 to 296.66 cu m in 2015.

"SDWTP's maximum treatment capacity has also increased from 136 million litres per day (MLD) in 1973 to 1,228 MLD now, which represents about 900% increase," added Jaseni.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who is also PBAPP chairman, in his speech praised PBAPP for ensuring water rationing does not occur in the state.

"The upgrading of SDWTP marks another milestone in preventing water rationing and ensuring Penangites receive clean water supply throughout the year.

"In 2015, SDWTP released an average of 812mil litres of water daily for 1.7 million people in Penang," he said.

Although Lim is confident that facilities in the state are able to sustain consumption, he expressed concern over the supply at source.

"We urge the Federal Government to implement the proposed Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) to explore water resource and fulfil the need for raw water until year 2050.

"The Federal Government must also stop logging activities in Ulu Muda and convince Kedah to proclaim the Ulu Muda water catchment immediately, which sources raw water for Perlis, Kedah and Penang.

"We also hope the Government will carry out its responsibility as agreed upon in the National Water Services Restructuring Initiative in 2011, which states that the Federal Government has responsibility to fulfil the need of raw water in Penang and to sustain four million people within the northern region," he said.