

Penang urges raw water transfer scheme to be fast-tracked



Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow today stressed that Sungai Muda, Penang's only major raw water resource, may only meet Kedah and Penang's combined raw water needs until 2025. Pic by NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

By **Bernama** - April 27, 2019 @ 3:44pm

GEORGE TOWN: Penang government is urging the Federal Government and the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources to commission Phase 1 of the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) by 2025.

The proposed project was initiated by Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) to tap Penang's second raw water resources in Sungai Perak to meet future water demand for the state and Northern Perak until 2050.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow today stressed that Sungai Muda, Penang's only major raw water resource, may only meet Kedah and Penang's combined raw water needs until 2025.

Chow said the state government and PBAPP had been asking the previous federal government to implement SPRWTS since 2011.

“Now that Pakatan Harapan (PH) is heading the Federal Government, we are hoping for fast-tracked approval and implementation of the SPRWTS by 2025,” he said in conjunction with World Water Day and PBAPP’s 20th anniversary celebration.

However, in a press conference on Friday, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu had stood firm on the state government’s decision to only sell treated water to Penang.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said WLNR had agreed to undertake technical studies to determine the best option that would have mutual benefits.

“Earlier, the ministry had only (carried out) two technical studies: one for Penang’s raw water proposal and Perak’s treated water proposal.

“Then, they came up with a third ‘hybrid’ proposal, which is incorporating transfers of both raw water and treated water to Penang and Perak water supply infrastructure,” Jaseni said.

He said he hoped that the ministry would complete studies on the three proposals in a couple of months.

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He said future key projects included upgrading Penang’s nine existing water treatment plants, as well as the third Butterworth to Penang twin submarine pipeline project, which consists of 1,200mm diameter twin submarine pipeline to supply 315 million litres per day of water from Sungai Dua Water Treatment in Seberang Prai to Penang Island. — BERNAMA