

No to supplying water to Penang, says Perak MB

IPOH: The state government's decision not to supply raw water to Penang is final, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad said.

"The analogy is, when one is on an airplane and an oxygen mask drops in front of us, we have to put on our own mask before we assist others.

"If we let Penang use our water, and we want to get it back (should Perak not have sufficient water supply), we won't be able to. The pain of not having enough water is enormous.

"We do not want to be like Penang, and from our experience we can see they are suffering as they don't have enough water supply. Perak must be prepared and defend the state and its people first," he said.

The Kota Tampan assemblyman was replying to a question from Howard Lee Chuan How (DAP-Pasir Pinji) who asked if the state would reconsider its decision to sell water to Penang, at the legislative assembly sitting in Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan, here, today.

Saarani said water from Sungai Perak is not only used as a source of treated water supply for the daily use of the people in the state, but also to generate hydroelectric power apart from agriculture, fisheries, and other growing industries.

"There are four Tenaga Nasional dams that generate electricity for national use, namely Temengor, Bersia, Kenering, and the Chenderoh Dams. Any reduction in the volume of dam water will affect the ability to generate electricity.

"Based on information from the Perak Water Board (LAP), 50 per cent of treated water supply for the people here is sourced and treated from Sungai Perak and its tributaries through the Water Treatment Plant (LRA) located along the river," he said.

Saarani added that the **Department of Statistics Malaysia** projected that the population of Perak in 2050 would increase to 3 million people compared to 2.5 million people now.

"Certainly, an increasing population will require more water consumption. Therefore, the state government must ensure demands for water here are always sufficient for domestic and commercial needs at all times," he said.

Early this month, Saarani had met Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow to discuss water transfers between the two states, and he had said that Perak was unable to supply water as the state itself was facing a shortage.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/03/784132/no-supplying-water-penang-says-perak-mb>