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Abdullah-Water

PM: SEMANGGAR PLANT BEARS TESTIMONY TO LOCAL COMPANY'S CAPABILITY

KOTA TINGGI, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Opening of the Semanggar Water Treatment Plant, marking the end of Johor's dependence on treated water from Singapore, bears testimony to the capabilities of local companies and Malaysians in acquiring high technology, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The Prime Minister said opening of the RM650 million plant also showed the success of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in providing facilities to the people.

"The government and the people of Johor can take pride in the success of this project. It has proven the ability of local companies to build a hi-tech water treatment plant.

"This success is very meaningful to the BN Government which always looks forward to provide facilities for the people," he said when opening the plant.

Owned by SAJ Holdings Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Ranhill Utilities, the plant is expected to be operational by year-end.

It will supply 160 million litres of water a day to consumers in Johor before its capacity is upgraded to 320 million litres daily in the near future.

Water treatment plants of Singapore's Public Utilities Board (PUB) in Johor will cease to operate with the opening of the plant.

Abdullah hoped SAJ, which had proven its mettle, would continue to ensure the water supplied to Johoreans was clean and of high quality.

"The government hopes the water supplied is clean and of high quality to the growing population," he said.

He also hoped the state government and SAJ would act promptly to address the problem of non-revenue water which is at 30 per cent.

"The Johor Government and SAJ have promised me to bring down the non-revenue water problem to 10 per cent," he said.

Earlier, SAJ Chairman Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed said the

Semanggar

Water Treatment Plant project was mooted by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who wanted a strategic approach to tackle the water supply issue without relying on foreigners.

"This approach realised a technological drive which will ensure Johoreans received uninterrupted and quality water supply in the long run.

"This means, once the entire project is completed, Johor Baharu and nearby districts no longer need to depend on treated water by the Public Utilities Board," he said.

Sallehuddin said although raw water treated at the Semanggar Water Treatment Plant was from Sungai Johor, its quality would be constantly monitored to ensure compliance with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, who is also Kota Tinggi Member of Parliament, and state executive councillors.

-- BERNAMA

MHI TOM