



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launching the Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park Masterplan in Bagan Serai yesterday. With him are Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (third from right), Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad (second from left), Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow (second from right) and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz (right). BERNAMA PIC

BOOST TO LOCAL ECONOMY

RM4B TO SUPPLY WATER TO PERAK 'GREEN PARK'

Raw water to be piped to Bukit Merah Dam, which will support Kerian industrial park

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THE government has in principle agreed to allocate RM4 billion to pipe raw water from Sungai Perak to the Bukit Merah Dam, which supplies treated water to northern Perak and Penang.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said part of the project would support the Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park (KIGIP) in Kerian.

He said this was a long-term plan to provide treated water to northern Perak and southern Penang, especially Seberang Prai.

He said the project had to be made a priority given that the KIGIP would mostly use green energy.

"All those keen on investing here have stressed green energy. With Malaysia's ability, we will amplify efforts to draw them here as soon as possible.

"The first step will see the whole KIGIP area, starting with 1,000 acres (404ha), use green

energy, a record not just in Malaysia but also elsewhere.

"KIGIP will require a significant amount of water. When we speak about data centres, including data centres plus AI, they will require large amounts of energy and water.

"If the water supply in Perak is managed well, it will be more than enough.

"It will meet the needs of KIGIP, irrigation in Kerian, and extend to Seberang Perai," he said at the launch of the KIGIP Masterplan at Dewan Dato' Zainal Abidin, here.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

Anwar said the launch of the KIGIP masterplan was significant not just for Perak but also the country, as it was a high-technology industrial park that emphasised on green energy.

He said the government had also agreed in principle to the Perak government's plan to build a new interchange from KIGIP to the North-South Expressway, estimated to cost RM60 million.

The proposed location is about 3.6km from the Alor Pongsu Toll Plaza heading north, which will become the main gateway to KIGIP. The construction of the interchange will benefit nearby

residents, including in Bagan Serai, Kampung Sungai Bogak, Kampung Tali Air and Pekan Simpang Lima.

He added that the companies involved were encouraged to prioritise local labour from the surrounding areas, including Bagan Serai and Kerian.

"KIGIP will offer technical and vocational education- and training opportunities to local youths.

"Companies can hire local engineers and pay them high wages," he said.

On a separate subject, he said school bus operators and companies that had not received diesel subsidies could still appeal.

"If they genuinely operate school buses, we will provide it. There is time to appeal and we will grant it.

"But if it's taken advantage of, such as large companies or profitable tour companies, it doesn't make sense for them to receive subsidies.

"Subsidies are meant for the needy," he said.

Anwar said the government was also aware of the public's concerns about rising prices of essential goods and services following the implementation of targeted diesel subsidies.

"Some are asking if the prices of goods will rise. I said we are monitoring it.

"Some people whose children take school buses are asking if fares will increase. I said we are monitoring it. We want everyone eligible to get this subsidy."