

## ISSUES RESOLVED

# PERAK TO SUPPLY WATER TO PENANG

Sultan and state govt have given their nod

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and the Perak government led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad have agreed to supply water to Penang.

Announcing the good news at the closing of the northern region Madani Rakyat 2024 programme here yesterday, Anwar said the water supply would flow through the Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park to Seberang Prai.

“Under the first phase, the water supply will reach Seberang Prai, including Nibong Tebal and Sungai Bakap.

“There have been concerns of water supply issues, especially in Nibong Tebal.

“This initiative, which started under Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow’s predecessor, continues until now.

Last week, Chow had said Penang was still awaiting Perak’s response on the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS).

He said Perak would need to submit its application to start or be ready to start with the project as soon as possible.

In November last year, the Perak government agreed to sell treated water to Penang following a unanimous agreement between the state secretaries.

Saarani, who confirmed this, said a joint committee was set up between the two state governments to pursue cropped-up matters.

The committee would study all costs before applying for an allocation with the Natural Resources and Sustainability Ministry to build a water treatment plant in the Kerian district in northern Perak.

Saarani had said the project would benefit the state by resolving agricultural issues in Kerian, and also preparing to meet demand of a proposed high technology industrial park spanning 400ha in the district, which Anwar announced in the 2024 Budget.

Penang and Perak have been in talks to implement SPRWTS for the past 12 years.

However, they faced stumbling blocks as Penang requested early on for raw water to be transferred to the state.

Perak, on the other hand, had wanted to sell treated water to Penang, while also citing challenges in handling its own water supply shortage.

SPRWTS, which is part of the Penang Water Supply Initiative 2050, will mitigate Penang’s raw water risks until 2030. It was proposed following an independent masterplan study commissioned by the Penang Water Supply Corporation in 2009.



The Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme will mitigate Penang’s raw water risks until 2030. **FILE PIC**