

Water Restructuring Deal With Perlis Still Underway, Says PAAB
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The water restructuring deal with Perlis is still underway awaiting the corporatisation of the state's Water Supply Department (JBA), the Water Asset Management Company (PAAB) said.

PAAB chief executive officer Datuk Ahmad Faizal Abdul Rahman said the smallest state in Malaysia has agreed to the water restructuring deal involving PAAB acquiring the state's water assets.

"They (Perlis) need to corporatise first and then transfer it (their assets) to PAAB.

"With the addition, Perlis will become the sixth state (to embark on the new licensing regime)," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Perdana Leadership Foundation CEO Forum 2013 here today.

Ahmad Faizal, a panellist at a session entitled "Water, Energy, Oil and Gas: The Real Issues, Current Scenario and Future Projections", expressed hope that the seven ministries currently in charge of water-related issues could be streamlined into one.

Nevertheless, he assured, the availability of water supply and quality of water treatment will not be compromised, adding most states in Malaysia maintain a water reserve of 15-20 per cent to cover any breakdown in operations.

Ahmad Faizal said PAAB will co-exist with the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) to enhance the water services industry in the country, with PAAB and SPAN each regulating the physical and operational sides of the water industry respectively.

Established in 2006 as a wholly-owned company under the Ministry of Finance Inc, PAAB forms part of the government's efforts to restructure the water services industry in order to achieve better efficiency and quality.

The CEO Forum, themed "Better Times Ahead for Malaysia?: Trends, Predictions And Outlook For 2013-2020", featured more than 35 speakers including Petronas chairman Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan and MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid.

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