



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	SUNDAY STAR			
TARIKH	:	24/11/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	12
JABATAN	:	KATS / SPAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

Penang submits RM1.4bil plan for raw water transfer scheme

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GEORGE TOWN: Penang has submitted a RM1.4bil plan to "tap" Sungai Perak in Perak as its second raw water source, in addition to Kedah's Sungai Muda.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said a letter had been sent to the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry on the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme proposal.

"We are aware that the scheme involves a

large amount of funding, but it is for the people's benefit," he told reporters after visiting the Butterworth-Penang Island third twin submarine pipeline project at the Macallum seafloor here yesterday.

Penang Water Supply Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Madhna said the RM1.4bil proposal involved the construction of a water tunnel to connect Sungai Perak, Sungai Jok and Sungai Kerian.

"We want the water flowing by 2025, which means work has to begin next year,"

said Jaseni.

"Penang needs to have a second raw water source to meet the future demand in the state and northern Perak until 2050."

Jaseni said the scheme would have four phases and upon completion, the final treatment plant would be able to pump 1,000 million litres of water per day.

On the twin submarine pipeline between the mainland and island, Jaseni said the RM114.3mil project was slated for completion by the end of 2020.

"The project is on schedule and will ensure a more efficient delivery of treated water from the Sungai Dua water treatment plant in Seberang Prai.

"It will act as a backup for the first submarine pipeline commissioned in 1973, some 46 years ago. Usually, a pipeline's design life is 50 years," he added.

Jaseni said all three twin pipelines were located in the Macallum area as this was the shortest distance from the mainland to the island.