

Repair on leaking bund another measure to help Kuantan folk brace the dry season

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By **Ong Han Sean**



Fuziah (middle) being briefed by officials at the Kobat pump house.

KUANTAN: Repair work on the bund near the Kobat pump house is expected to take about two months to complete.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Fuziah Salleh said a contractor would be appointed by next week and work could then begin to plug the seepage in the bund that was causing water from the river to flow out into the sea.

"The bund is supposed to retain the water level so it will be high enough at the barrage gate but there's seepage even though water from the Chereh dam is being released.

"The water level cannot be retained at the 0.8m minimum required for the full capacity operation of the water pump.

"When there's high tide, sea water seeps through as well, causing the drinking water to have a salty aftertaste," she said after being briefed by Pengurusan Air Pahang Bhd and Irrigation and Drainage Department officials here.

Although the state government announced a RM5mil allocation for the repair funded by the Gebeng Industrial Support Group, Fuziah said this was only enough to install sheet pile on one side of the bund.

“The entire work will actually cost RM10.3mil. I have spoken to the Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister and I am doing my best to get the other RM5.3mil from the ministry,” said the Kuantan MP.

The Mentri Besar’s Office said in a statement recently that cloud seeding would also be carried out over water catchment areas to immediately solve water disruption issues affecting 80,000 accounts in the district during the dry season.

Fuziah said as long as both measures were implemented, the people of Kuantan should be able to bear the next few months of dry season.

“We are committed to working together for the people even though the Pahang government is not the same as the Federal Government,” she said.

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