

# TNB needs to conserve water at dam for the dry season

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Temengor Dam water level may be too high for the orang asli to return to their homes but it cannot be reduced fast because of the need to conserve water for the dry season.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd said the water from the dam had to be released very gradually in view of the expected drought from June to October which could cause the inflow of water to dwindle.

"The water is being released very gradually because The Me-

teorological Department has informed us that the dry season will start some time in June, if not earlier," said Tenaga corporate affairs and communications senior general manager Datuk Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Amin.

Some orang asli houses in Kampung Chuweh and Kampung Tebang Lama in Gerik, Perak, remain totally submerged three months after the floods that hit several states in December due to the high water level at the dam.

The villagers fear they will suffer floods again during the monsoon season even though they are on higher ground.

Aminuddin said the current water level was within the range for generating electricity.

"The level must be maintained between 237m and 248.4m for the generator to produce electricity.

The level as of March 23 was 247.04m compared with between 241m and 242m last year.

"In the past, we made it known to

the relevant authorities on the risk to the orang asli settlements located within the dam's water operating levels," he said.

He said that if the water level was too low, the Temengor Dam could not discharge water to produce electricity and it would also have a major impact on the Bersia, Kenering and Chenderoh cascading dams below it.

There would not be enough water from the Temengor Dam to flow to the three dams for release to rivers

downstream which are sources of water for the Perak Water Board and the Department of Drainage and Irrigation, he added.

Aminuddin said Tenaga expected the water to recede to the level before the floods in May or June.

The Temengor Dam generates 348 megawatt of electricity.

When the floods occurred from last December to early January, water from the Temengor Dam rose sharply and had to be released through the spillway.