

# Padi planting in Kerian delayed by 10 days

**IPOH:** Padi farmers in the Kerian district have to postpone the planting of new seedlings by 10 days due to the heatwave.

State Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Energy and Water Committee chairman Datuk Zainol Fadzi Paharudin said as much as 5,000ha of padi fields would be affected.

“Water was supposed to be released to the fields on April 10 but due to low water supply at the Bukit Merah Retention Pond, supply will only resume on April 20,” he said on the sideline of Perak state assembly here yesterday.



**Datuk Zainol  
Fadzi  
Paharudin**

Zainol (BN-Sungai Manik) said the Department of Irrigation and Drainage had to give priority to providing water for daily use after the rainfall in Perak felled by 60 per cent due to the El Nino phenomenon since last year.

“Despite the low rainfall, there are no plans to carry out water rationing,” he said.

Zainol said the water reserve at the Sultan Azlan Shah Dam here could last for 74 days while the Air Kuning Dam in Taiping could last for 51 days.

He said Perakians needed 865 million litres of water daily.

“Water reserve at the Sultan Azlan Shah Dam stands at 242.6m today (yesterday) with its critical level at 226m, while in Taiping, the water level stands at 37.4m, compared with its critical level of 34m,” he said.