

# SPAN monitoring dams in 5 states

**DRY SPELL:** 40,060 residents in 3 states affected by low water levels at dams

**CHUAH BEE KIM**  
PASIR GUDANG  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE National Water Services Commission Malaysia (SPAN) is monitoring affected dams in Perak, Perlis, Pahang, Kedah and Johor.

Chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Ridhuan Ismail said 40,060 residents in Perlis, Pahang and Kedah were affected by the low water levels at the dams in the three states.

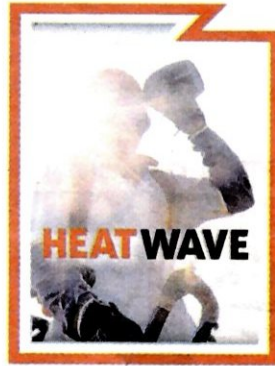
"State water operators have to deploy water tanks to some areas."

He said water rationing would be imposed on residents here and in parts of Johor Baru if the water level at Sungai Layang Dam dropped to 19m.

This is expected to take place in two to three weeks if the dry spell continues.

Ridhuan said this after visiting the dam, which supplies raw water to the Sultan Iskandar water treatment plant.

The water level at the dam was registered at 19.55m yesterday,



which is below the critical level of 23.5m.

"Every drop of water counts," he said at the water treatment plant here after visiting the dam.

He also visited four other dams in the state, including Congok Dam.

He said the water exercise would continue for 37,280 residents in Mersing, who rely on Congok Dam and Sungai Mersing, which supply raw water to the Tenglu and Sungai Mersing water treatment plants, until May 15.

"The water level of Congok Dam is below the 4.5m critical level and if the dry spell persists, we will have to extend the exercise."

He said it was the same for the 44,225 residents in Kota Tinggi, where the exercise started since April 18. The residents get water supply from the Sungai Gembut and Lok Heng water treatment plants.

In **Alor Star**, water level at six dams



SPAN chief executive officer **Datuk Mohd Ridhuan Ismail** (second from left) at the Sungai Layang Dam in Pasir Gudang yesterday. With him are SPAN commissioner **Datuk Roger Tan Kor Mee** (second from right) and SPAN executive director **Marzuki Mohammad** (right). Pic by Zulkarnain Ahmad Tajuddin

in Kedah have dipped due to the heatwave.

However, the water level at three of the dams, supervised by the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada), is sufficient and at a safe level.

Mada deputy general manager (technical) Datuk Hor Tek Lip said the water level at Pedu Dam was at 55.47 per cent, Ahning Dam (71.69 per cent) and Muda

Dam (30.40 per cent).

"The water level dropped but it is enough to accommodate the irrigation system for the first padi cultivation season in spite of the El Nino phenomenon," he said.

The water level at Beris Dam is at a critical level, recording a reading of 26.43 per cent as compared with 38.99 per cent on April 17.

The water levels at Padang Saga and Malut dams in Langkawi

recorded a reading of 39.41 per cent and 50.58 per cent.

In **Padang Besar**, the water level at Timah Tasoh Dam continued to drop 0.04 metre to 26.06 metres yesterday from 26.10 metres recorded on Monday. Perlis Drainage and Irrigation Department deputy director Mohamad Nor Hafiz Noor Azmi said water supply at the dam could last until next month if the drought persisted.