

'No water rationing in Kerian as water level in dam has improved'

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dam, but we can give suggestions to the state government. The dam is very old and deepening it is not going to help."

Marzuki said the water level at the Bukit Merah dam stood at 6.2m yesterday and it could only last for 30 days if there was no rain.

In **Ipoh**, state Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Energy and Water

Committee chairman Datuk Zainol Fadzi Paharudin said the state government would not introduce water rationing in Kerian district since the water level had improved from 6.1m on Monday to 6.2m yesterday, thanks to the rain in the past few days.

"We will stick to our earlier statement that water rationing will only be implemented if the water level at the Bukit Merah dam drops to 5.1m,"

he said after co-chairing a special meeting on the issue with State Secretary Datuk Seri Abdul Puhat Mat Nayan yesterday.

He said the decision was made after they received feedback from the Irrigation and Drainage Department (DID) and Perak Water Board (PWB).

During the meeting, he said, they discussed the reports tabled by DID, PWB, the Meteorological Department and Agriculture Department.

Zainol said water from the Bukit Merah dam would only be channelled to water treatment plants for domestic and industrial use.

"The water supply for agricultural irrigation has been temporarily suspended until the level reaches the normal range of at least 7m."

For the Bukit Merah dam, the water level is considered "critical state one" when it drops below 7m, "critical stage two" when it reaches 6.7m

and "critical stage three" when it reaches 6.4m.

The maximum level at the dam is 8.55m, while the minimum, which should trigger water rationing and other contingency measures, is 5.1m.

Built in 1906, the Bukit Merah dam is located upstream of the confluence of Sungai Kurau and Sungai Merah and has a storage capacity of 92.8 million cubic metres.