

Water woes may end as Perlis dam level rises after rain

KANGAR: After about two months of the water crisis due to the El Nino weather phenomenon, water reserves at the Timah Tasoh Dam have finally risen pass the critical level.

Yesterday, the water level at the state's sole water reservoir was recorded at 26.54m, which is 0.04m above its critical level of 26.5m.

State Drainage and Irrigation Department director Abdul Najib Abdullah said the water reading was expected to increase if the rainfall continued over the next few weeks.

"Rainfall recordings in Padang Besar, Sungai Jarum and Sungai Pelarit as at last Saturday were at 67mm. We received rainfall of 43mm on Saturday and 24mm yesterday (Sunday).

"We are expecting the water

level to rise if it continues to rain at the reservoir area," he said when contacted.

On another matter, he said the department would build 18 tube wells near the Timah Tasoh water treatment plant area, under Syarikat Air Perlis, for domestic use.

He said the eight-inch-diameter tube wells were expected to channel underground water to the water treatment plant to prevent risk of evaporation if the water supply was channelled directly to the dam.

"We are expecting the water level to rise if it continues to rain at the water catchment area.

Abdul Najib Abdullah
Perlis Drainage and Irrigation Department director

Although the prolonged dry spell has ended, the tube wells would still be constructed, using the RM3.8 million allocation approved by the Federal Government recently, as a precautionary measure in the event of any disaster.