



Gemencheh dam back from the brink

A picture taken in April, during a period when Gemencheh dam, in Negri Sembilan, recorded its lowest water level. File pic

SEREMBAN: The Gemencheh dam Raw Water Supply Project is seeing positive results six months after its completion.

The project, which saw the con-

struction of a RM34 million pump house built about 6.5km from the dam, was completed in March. It implements a “pumping system” which channels water from Sungai

Jelai to the dam, pumping 12 million gallons of water daily to Gemencheh dam.

Negri Sembilan Water Regulatory Body director Nor Halim Aludin

said the water level at the dam now had exceeded its normal level, a positive indication after the implementation of the project.

“The dam now is capable of supplying water to the Gemencheh Water Treatment Plant for more than 200 days, in comparison with the previous 60 days. The project is showing positive progress and will help us tackle the state’s water crisis,” he said.

Based on current progress, the project would be able to supply treated water to some 16,500 residents in Tampin and Rembau.

“During the water crisis, Gemencheh dam was badly affected and at the time, could only sustain itself for less than two months. The launch of the Gemencheh Dam Raw Water Supply Project, initiated by the state government, was a long-term plan aimed at tackling the water supply problem.”

Nor Halim said various measures had been taken to curb encroachment into water catchment areas in the state.

“The state government has

gazetted water catchment areas in several dam locations as conservation areas, which would protect them from being converted into plantations.

“Gemencheh dam, however, is an exception, as it was built next to an oil palm plantation owned by a private company. It was difficult to turn the dam area into a water catchment area due to the fact that oil palm plantations require a lot of water. Besides, there is insufficient rainfall in the area,” he said.

“Due to these reasons, the implementation of the Raw Water Supply Project was fitting for Gemencheh dam to solve the water supply problem,” he said.

Besides the Gemencheh dam, which is located in Tampin, Negri Sembilan has six other dams — Talang dam (Kuala Pilah), Triang dam (Jejebu), Sungai Terip dam (Seremban), Kelinchi dam (Kuala Pilah), Ulu Sepri dam (Rembau) and Sungai Beringin dam (Rembau).

Nor Halim said other projects to increase the water supply in the state were in the works.