RM330m for 5 water projects

**WATER WOES:** This is to ensure Klang Valley won't run out of water by 2014, says minister

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The National Economic Council approved RM331 million for five water mitigation projects to ensure that the Klang Valley does not run out of water in 2014.

It serves as a temporary solution to the delay in the building of the Langat water treatment plant 2 (Langat 2).

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui said the Selangor government had prolonged the approval for the Langat 2 project to 2½ years, resulting in the new completion date to be in 2017, instead of 2014 as planned.

"Without the mitigation projects by the Federal Government, it is estimated that there will be water crisis in the Klang Valley."

The Langat 2 project, the biggest in the country, would include the capacity upgrading of two water treatment plants, additional non-revenue water programmes, Rasa (Sungai Selangor phase 3) plant bulk transfer and asset replacement programmes.

The projects will supply an additional 481 million litres of water per day.

Chin said the projects would address water shortages in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

"On Jan 6, several areas, including Hulu Langat, Sepang, Kuala Langat and Pekan, reported water disruptions."

"We can't allow people in densely-populated areas to go without water," he said during his visit to the Sungai Semenyih and Sungai Labu plants yesterday.

Water reserves in Selangor had dwindled to 1.43 per cent, compared with 3.4 per cent last month. The ideal water levels should be at 10 per cent, he said.

Chin said the Semenyih plant had been operating 25 per cent more than its normal capacity to deliver 680 million litres of water.

"The additional 25 per cent means the plant is overworked. How long can we overload the plant before it gives way? Two million people will suffer if this happens."