

## Water Resources Bill 2022 postponed for refining and improvement

By Zahratulhayat Mat Arif - July 19, 2022 @ 12:32pm



The decision was announced by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad who submitted the motion during the winding up session of the Bill. - BERNAMA Pic

IPOH: The Perak State Assembly has postponed the approval of the Water Resources Bill 2022 to enable it to be refined before being approved.

The decision was announced by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad who submitted the motion during the winding up session of the Bill.

"The Perak Water Resources Bill tabled yesterday was debated and discussed by several members of the house from both the government and the opposition.

"Various aspects were touched on in the debate; reflecting our collective concern for the interests of the people and the state. I once again record my deepest appreciation and many thanks for the courteous concern," he said at the state assembly sitting in Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan, here today.

Government representatives who debated the bill were Jamilah Zakaria (BN-Trong), Dr Jurij Jalaludin (BN-Lubuk Merbau), Mohamad Noor Dawoo (BN-Selising) and Leong Cheok Keng (Parti Bangsa Malaysia-Malim Nawar).

Opposition representatives who debated the bill were Loh Sze Yee (PH-Jalong), Tan Kar Hing (PH-Simpang Pulai), Teoh Yee Chern (PH-Astaka), Howard Lee Chuan How (PH-Pasir Pinji), Dr Muhd Fadhil Nuruddin (PH-Kamunting) and Terence Naidu (PH-Pasir Bedamar).

The Kota Tampan assemblyman said the Bill is important because it touches on the interests of the state and the people.

"The various contents of the debate, as well as the interjection by the assemblymen, have illustrated how much we as elected representatives are responsible for the Bill that we want to pass.

"I have examined all the arguments and views of the members of the house from both sides, whether pro-government or opposition and found it clear that there is room and opportunity for improvement on the proposed Bill.

"To refine various recommendations and views put forward by members of the house during the debate, I hereby propose that the Bill be adjourned to a time to be determined and a bipartisan committee established to enable us all to sit at the same table refining and harmonising this Bill.

"This bipartisan committee is important so that when this Bill is brought back to this house, it can reflect the real will of the people's representatives as well as benefit the state and the people of Perak," he said.

Yesterday, Saarani said the tabling of the bill aimed to replace the Water Act 1920 and related laws as well as to establish the Perak Water Resources Management Board.

There is a policy need to enact a new state law that is orderly and comprehensive.

Until today, the management of water resources in Perak is still regulated based on the provisions of the Water Act 1920 implemented by respective district officers in the state. There is no specific body that can be the primary reference for regulating such water resources.