

KENYIR DAM'S STRUCTURE SAFE FOR THE PUBLIC, TNB SAYS

By NURUL SUHAIDI / Pic BERNAMA



The structure of the Kenyir Dam in Hulu Terengganu is able to accommodate the Sultan Mahmud Power Station (SJSM).

Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) CEO Datuk Baharin Din said the most recent assessment has proved that the dam structure remains intact and safe for nearby residents to carry out their daily activities as usual.

“Currently, TNB team is doing mitigation works to fix the collapse of the slopes around the dam to ensure the structure remains strong.

“We are also actively clearing the landslide in the affected area toward the station route with the assistance of the Malaysian Public Works Department and other government agencies to enable the repairs equipment to be sent to us immediately,” he said in a statement yesterday. He noted that the result of the initial inspection had been informed to Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar.

As part of the flood relief initiative to Terengganu, Baharin also handed a check amounting over RM100,000 to Ahmad Samsuri.

SJSM's operations were temporarily halted on Feb 27 following the collapse of a high-voltage delivery tower, which is primarily used to generate power for the national grid, as a result of an extremely severe rainfall on Feb 25.

"Apart from the initial inspection, all TNB dams are inspected monthly, audited for structural integrity every six months, and subjected to a 'Dam Safety Review' by an independent dam expert every five to seven years, which includes dam related structures such as spillways, intakes and dam saddles," he said. Despite the temporary closure, he stressed that water from the dam continued to flow into Sungai Terengganu to source clean water and irrigation for agricultural and other purposes.

"The water is also still flowing out to Sungai Terengganu because there is a piping system for the out-flow of water from the dam even if the power turbine is not operating. "Currently, the water level at the Kenyir Dam is still below the 145m automatic release level and far below its 153m maximum capacity level.

"To date, the highest ever water level recorded at the 155m high dam is 148.08m which occurred when Hulu Terengganu was stormed by heavy rainfall in 2014," he said. "TNB will continue to perform a comprehensive assessment for Kenyir Dam in the short- and long- term, including ensuring slope stability to speed up the overhaul process, particularly in restoring the collapsed transmission tower or even any damaged repairing," Baharin added.

He also stated that the public in the East Coast will not be affected by the temporary closure of SJSM because the supply channelled through the national grid system is sufficient. "The electricity supply which was temporarily cut off in Terengganu previously due to floods also has been fully restored," he concluded.