

14 APR, 2026

PETRA programme showcases integrated infrastructure progress



New Sarawak Tribune, Malaysia

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KUCHING: A two-day PETRA Squad Sarawak Zone programme underscored the government's firm commitment to strengthening water security, accelerating the energy transition, and reducing flood risks across the state.

Led by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Amar Fadillah Yusof, who also serves as Minister of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), the programme combined site visits with the handover of key water supply and flood mitigation projects. It reflected a coordinated and forward-looking approach — one that integrates infrastructure development, regulatory oversight and community engagement.

On April 12, Fadillah, accompanied by ministry officials and 29 media practitioners, visited the Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam in Lubok Antu. During the visit, Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) provided a detailed briefing on the dam's history and its long-standing role in supplying electricity across Sarawak.

Operational for more than four decades, the dam remains a cornerstone of the state's energy framework. SEB's plan to extend its lifespan by another 30 years signals a strong commitment to sustainability — not only in



FADILLAH (centre) inspects the water booster equipment.

delivering renewable energy, but also in supporting Sarawak's long-term growth.

Fadillah also commended SEB's initiative to develop floating solar systems within the reservoir, generating approximately 50MW in collaboration with a company from China. The move reflects Sarawak's shift towards a balanced renewable energy mix, harnessing both hydropower and solar to strengthen energy resilience.

In Lubok Antu, he further announced a proposed additional allocation of RM1 million for river cleaning and maintenance works, reinforcing efforts to preserve the local environment. He also witnessed the handover of contributions from SEB to three houses of worship, underlining the importance of corporate social responsibility alongside

infrastructure development.

The programme continued on April 13 with the handover ceremony of the National Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Project (Approach 1) for Sarawak, valued at RM28.8 million, held at the Sungai Lumut Booster Pump Station in Semariang.

The NRW project is a strategic federal initiative aimed at reducing water losses through improved measurement systems, tighter control mechanisms and comprehensive mapping of the water supply network. By strengthening data management and monitoring, the project provides a catalyst for the Rural Water Supply Department (JBALB) to implement more systematic and consistent action plans.

At the regulatory level, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air

Negara (SPAN) continues to play a critical role in ensuring that NRW targets are met, while safeguarding consumer interests and promoting efficiency within the national water services system.

Also present were Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, and Deputy Minister in the Sarawak Premier's Department (Coordination of Regional Development Agencies Kuching North City Hall and Islamic Affairs) Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi.

The delegation then proceeded to inspect the Sarawak River Integrated Basin Development Project (PLSB) — Package 3, which includes the Flood Mitigation Plan (RTB) at Sungai Gersik and Sungai Sinjan.

As part of wider efforts to address flooding in the Kuching area, the project also involves deepening and widening works : Sungai Tengah and Sungai Minj in Matang. Valued at RM41.96 million, the package commenced on May 21, 2024, and is scheduled for completion on October 7, 2025. It forms part of the broader PLSI Sarawak River initiative with a total allocation of RM191 million.

The overall project comprises Package 1 (RM18.67 million), Package 2 (RM23.86 million) and Package 3 (RM41.96 million), with the remaining RM106.51 million allocated for consultancy services and utility relocation.

Upon completion, the development is expected to benefit around 22,600 residents and protect approximately 130 hectares from flood risks, with protection levels of up to a 20-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI). Beyond flood control, the initiative is anticipated to strengthen socio-

economic activities and enhance the sustainability of local communities.

The visit continued to the PETROS Darul Hana Multi-Fuel Station (MFS), which introduces Kuching's first integrated energy refuelling station concept, reflecting the broader push towards diversified energy solutions.

The delegation also inspected the RTB Sungai Stakan project and reviewed drainage upgrading works at Sekolah Kebangsaan Muara Tuang, Muara Tuang Park and Stakan. These works fall under the scope of PLSB Sarawak River Package 1.

The highlight of the programme was the handover ceremony of the completed RTB Stakan and Sibit projects, alongside the implementation of a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative at Masjid Darul Malihah in Kampung Bukit Berangan, Kota Samarahan.

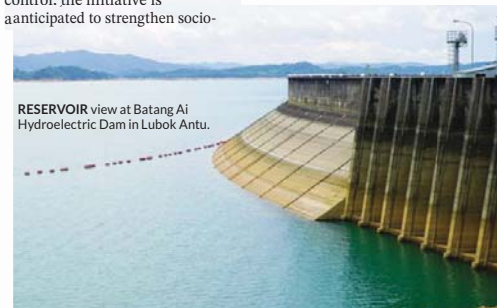
Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) marked the first implementation of its CSR Zakat Wakalah programme in Sarawak, benefiting two mosques — Masjid Darul Malihah and Masjid Al-Abyad, Matang — with contributions of RM10,000 each.

In tandem, SPAN carried out its own CSR initiative for the first time by contributing water-efficient taps valued at RM2,800 to the two mosques, promoting prudent water usage at the community level.

Taken together, the two-day programme demonstrated more than project milestones. It illustrated a holistic governance model — one that links clean energy, efficient water management and flood resilience with tangible community benefits — reinforcing Sarawak's path towards sustainable and inclusive development.



BATANG Ai Hydroelectric Dam, featuring its spillway structure and power transmission facilities supporting Sarawak's hydroelectric energy supply.



RESERVOIR view at Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam in Lubok Antu.