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*The Tembat dam has been built using German and Swiss technology and is located 429m above sea level.
Pic by Mohd Syafiq Ridzuan Ambak*

RM2.3b dams to add 265MW to Kenyir hydroelectric station

HULU TERENGGANU: The newly-constructed RM2.3 billion Tembat and Puah dams, once fully operational in October, will add 265 megawatt (MW) of electricity to the generation capacity of Kenyir Hydroelectric Power Stations, says Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB).

The two new cascading hydroelectric dams are the third of their kind in the country after those in Cameron Highlands and Sungai Perak.

Kenyir Hydroelectric Power Stations generation division general manager Mustafa Hashim said the dams would increase the capacity of the power station to 665MW.

“This will make it the second largest hydroelectric station in the country after the Sungai Perak hydroelectric power station,” he said.

Located 429m above sea level, Tembat was built using German and Swiss technology with the concept of a diversion dam.

“Puah, at 296m above sea level, was built using French technology of a gate spillway.

“TNB also spent RM10 million for studies relating to the construction, including landform and type of soil, water flow, impact to flora and fauna, and conservation to minimise the impact to nature,” he added.

Mustafa said apart from power generation, the lake formed by the dams also acted as a flood mitigating system by collecting additional water during heavy rain season.

The Tembat and Puah lakes cover 7,180 hectares or one sixth of the size of the Kenyir Lake.

Meanwhile, Mustafa said power sourced from hydroelectricity was important for energy diversification in the country.

It complemented thermal power generation and support the national energy grid during peak hours and if an interruption occurred, he said.

The national grid’s capacity is about 22,000MW. **Bernama**