

Pengerang project still viable

KOTA TINGGI: Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Mohamed Khaled Nordin said that with the operation of the Seluyut dam, the state government has confidence to carry out the RAPID (Refinery and Petrochemical Integrated Development) project in Pengerang.

For the sceptics, the completion of the dam is proof that the government is committed to the project, added Mohamed Khaled who officiated the dam's operation ceremony at the PAMER (Project Air Mentah RAPID) site near here yesterday.

The RM1 billion project is the largest raw water transfer plant in Malaysia.

Asked how many foreign investors have come to Pengerang, he said that when the facilities are in place, the foreign investors would come.

There have been market talk that the RAPID project has slowed down after the fall in oil prices and the uncertain outlook of the oil and gas sector globally.

Seluyut dam is one of the PAMER projects and can currently provide 260 million litres per day of raw water. Besides supplying the PIC (Pengerang Integrated Complex), 30 million litres per day is being channelled to the Sungai Lebam reservoir which serves the Pengerang community.

Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the Johor Water Regulatory Body has just got approval from the federal authority, the National Water Services Commission, for the dam to channel some water to Layang dam in Pasir Gudang in the near future.

Layang dam serves about 40,000 account users in the area. – by **Low Sock Ken**