



In early July, Shahelmei paid a working visit to UMS to conduct a survey.



Shahelmei surveying the UMS R13 site to strengthen bilateral cooperation regarding water supply and distribution in the area.

Govt moves to resolve UMS water woes

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In May, Shahelmei conducted a working visit to the UMS pump house near the R13 tank.

Jegathisan Sivanesan

THE state and federal governments are taking comprehensive action to resolve the lingering water supply problem at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The issue is believed to have affected more than 23,000 campus residents. Among the main causes identified are water theft, incomplete pipe systems and internal operational issues.

Technical cooperation between the Sabah State Water Department (JANS) and UMS is being strengthened, including the installation of new digital indicators for water level monitoring and standardisation of pump operations.

UMS welcomes the government's support and emphasises the need for a comprehensive solution for the well-being of students.

The federal government has also approved an additional allocation of RM1 million for a short-term intervention plan,

including the construction of special pipelines, underground water tanks and the installation of automatic valves and booster pumps to increase water pressure to student residential colleges.

Long-term projects such as the Telibong II Phase 2 pipe system and a new treatment plant are expected to increase water supply capacity sustainably.

The state government has assured that the water supply issue at UMS will be addressed comprehensively through close collaboration between JANS and the university.

Deputy Chief Minister III cum Works Minister, Datuk Shahelmei Yahya, has previously held a series of discussions and site visits at UMS to resolve the long-standing issue.

In a joint press conference with UMS last June, he said that among the main causes identified were water theft, incomplete pipe systems and internal operational challenges.

He said that the government viewed the matter seriously and

had coordinated collaborative efforts between JANS and UMS from a technical and communication perspective.

He did not deny that there was confusion or misunderstanding in communication between UMS and JANS, especially regarding monitoring the water level in Tank R13, which contributed to the uncertainty in water distribution.

Meanwhile, UMS welcomed the joint approach and stressed the importance of stable water supply to campus residents.

The new Telibong 2 Phase 2 pipe system, which was successfully completed last July, will undoubtedly increase the capacity of treated water supply to the Kota Kinabalu Utara area including UMS.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA) has approved an additional allocation of RM1 million for a short-term intervention plan to reduce water supply disruptions at UMS.

Deputy Prime Minister cum PETRA Minister, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof made the announcement during a visit to the university in July.

The allocation under PETRA will be implemented through collaboration with JANS and UMS.

The measures taken include the construction of a special distribution pipeline to connect to UMS's existing groundwater resources.

In addition, an underground water tank with an additional capacity of 0.13 million litres will be built.

This is important to increase water supply to UMS residents.

Aside from that, efforts to install automatic modulating valves to stabilise the water level in UMS' water tanks have also been implemented.

The measure is expected to directly benefit more than 3,000 students living at Tun Mustapha Residential College and Tun Fuad Residential College who are often affected by water supply disruptions.