

GSWMS Monitors Radiation In National Waters Around The Clock, Data Open To Public

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LANGKAWI, Sept 10 (Bernama) -- The Gamma Spectrum Water Monitoring System (GSWMS) monitors the country's waters 24 hours a day for unusual changes in radiation levels, including potential cross-border radioactive contamination, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Chang Lih Kang.

He said the system is part of the government's efforts to ensure the safety of the country's waters, while boosting public confidence through open access to monitoring data.

Chang said the public can access GSWMS monitoring data through the websites of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Department of Atomic Energy (Atom Malaysia).

"We want to provide all data and information to the public openly. We want to assure the public that we have nothing to hide," he told reporters after a working visit to the GSWMS station at the Royal Malaysian Customs Department jetty here today.

Chang said GSWMS continuously monitors gamma radiation levels in the waters and can identify radioactive isotopes if it detects unusual changes.

He said Atom Malaysia has standard operating procedures and emergency response mechanisms in place to investigate and take follow-up action if readings exceed the control threshold.

According to him, no readings above the control threshold have been recorded since the first GSWMS was installed at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) jetty in 2023.

Chang said four more GSWMS stations are now operational, located in Langkawi, Pulau Tioman Marine Park in Pahang, Pulau Perhentian Marine Park in Terengganu and Bintulu Port Jetty in Sarawak.

He said the four GSWMS stations were built in April and completed in November last year at a total installation cost of RM2.64 million, under a strategic collaboration between Atom Malaysia, the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, the Fisheries Department and the Bintulu Port Authority.

He said the government will discuss with Atom Malaysia the need to increase the number of GSWMS stations in the future, based on requirements and areas identified as being at risk.

He said the project also achieved 90 per cent local content and expertise, with only the gamma probe detector imported, while the entire supporting infrastructure was designed and developed locally.

Meanwhile, Chang said the government is enhancing land-based radiation monitoring by installing 17 Environmental Radiation Monitoring System (ERMS) units and 17 Gamma Dose Rate Monitoring System (GDRMS) units, alongside monitoring in the waters.

He said the expanded monitoring network will strengthen the country's ability to detect any radiation threats quickly.

-- BERNAMA