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Penang braces for temporary water interruption due to crucial plant maintenance



THE Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) is gearing up for crucial maintenance at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant in January, leading to a temporary water interruption, as explained by PBAPP chief executive officer K. Pathmanathan.

The maintenance, including the replacement of leaking control valves, aims to prevent future water disruptions.

“The water treatment plant (WTP) had to be shut down to replace two units of 1,200mm control valves, which are leaking. Several other water repair works at 22 different locations will also take place,” Pathmanathan said.



Starting on Jan 10 at 6am and lasting until Jan 14 at 6am, the work will see a 24-hour repair followed by a gradual 48 to 72-hour resumption of water, prioritising areas closest to the distribution centre.

Pathmanathan emphasised the importance of water conservation during this period and assured continuous supply for hospitals and dialysis centres.

“We have identified the affected areas supplied by Sungai Dua WTP, and some locations may experience reduced water pressure. However, rest assured, we are committed to maintaining a continuous water supply for hospitals and dialysis centres during this period,” he told a media conference today.

“We will dispatch water tanks to the affected areas and position static water tanks strategically. Additional information on this will be provided.

“In case of emergencies, the public can contact PBAPP for assistance.

“PBAPP has reached out to fellow water operators and engaged the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) to assist, particularly in the provision of water tanks.

“Besides that, we welcome volunteers, especially voluntary fire brigades, to join us in assisting the community during the water interruption. They can provide their names by contacting our office.

Pathmanathan said PBAPP had received inquiries about the possibility of staging the water interruption.

“Unfortunately, this is not feasible. The Sungai Dua WTP, responsible for supplying 80% of water to Penangites, necessitates a complete shutdown.

“We can only do the recovery process in stages,” he added.

Meanwhile, Penang Transport and Infrastructure Committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari emphasised that the maintenance work is a long-overdue project that could not be postponed, crucial for ensuring water sustainability in the state.



“Some of the valves, aged 50 years, require replacement, and we have been searching for an opportune time to address this issue.

“Delaying any further poses the risk of a breakdown, potentially causing sudden water interruptions.

“This is the reason behind implementing the scheduled water interruption, and we are notifying the public well in advance to give ample time for necessary preparations,” Zairil said.

Zairil also mentioned that Jason H’ng Mooi Lye, the state Local Government, Town, and Country Planning Committee chairman, would aid in coordinating voluntary fire brigades for water distribution using tanks.

“Both the state government’s and local government’s tankers will be mobilised to supply water to landed residential homes.

“Residents in stratified homes are encouraged to use stored water wisely.

“By minimising water usage, there is a possibility of maintaining water supply throughout the period,” he stressed, urging the public to refrain from unnecessary water consumption, like washing cars.

Zairil expressed the hope that car wash centres and laundries will refrain from operating during the water interruption period.

Both PBAPP and state officials apologised for any inconvenience caused.

Can refer below to check the affected areas.