

8-1-2024

My conscience won't permit me to postpone water cut, says Chow

Penang chief minister Chow Kon Yeow says he would have done so if he wanted popularity.



GEORGE TOWN: Penang chief minister Chow Kon Yeow says the state government will press forward with the four-day scheduled water cut from this Wednesday, as his “conscience” will not permit him to postpone it.

“If I wanted to become popular (among the public), I would have asked the Penang Water Supply Corporation to postpone this operation.

“My responsibility and conscience does not permit me to do so,” he told reporters after inspecting the jumbo water tankers to be mobilised statewide to supply water.

He said this when asked to respond to criticisms from Penangites on the state government’s decision to press forward with the water cut.

During the press conference, Chow said that 99 water tankers would be deployed during the water disruption period starting from Jan 10.

He added that 97 static tanks have been set up by PBAPP, including 19 “Gajah Flexitanks”, which can store up to 24,000 litres of water each.

Chow gave an assurance that PBAPP would not prioritise the needs of its “biggest customers” over domestic consumers, saying that there is a predetermined sequence for water supply recovery.

Water supply to areas closer to the Sungai Dua water treatment plant are expected to recover earlier, followed by the rest of Seberang Perai by 6am on Jan 12.

Areas on Penang island will experience recovery by 6am the following day.

Chow also denied claims that the entire state would be affected by the water cut, as the operation only involves consumers in the areas listed by the state water company.

“With this explanation, I think there is no need to argue and dispute anything (regarding the water cut) any more.”