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## 33,500 accounts to face water disruption in Penang



**PENANG:** Some 33,500 water accounts in key parts of Penang Island – Air Itam, Farlim and Paya Terubong – will be affected by an 18-hour scheduled water supply interruption (SWSI), beginning at 9pm on Friday and lasting until 3pm on Saturday

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said the SWSI, approved by the National Water Services Commission (SPAN), was to facilitate pipeline diversion work for the Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu Expressway - Air Itam Bypass road project.

As such, he advised water consumers in the affected areas to store sufficient water for use during the SWSI.

"The SWSI is directly related to a 600mm water pipeline diversion project to accommodate state flood mitigation works related to the Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu Expressway - Air Itam Bypass road project.

"An existing major mild steel (MS) water supply pipeline must be safely diverted away from the project area to avoid mishaps that may cause water supply issues in the affected areas.

"We apologise for any inconvenience this SWSI may cause. We advise water consumers in the affected areas to store sufficient water for use during the SWSI," he said in a statement today.

Elaborating, Pathmanathan said that due to the work, PBAPP had to temporarily close five valves in five pump houses to facilitate the final connection works of the 600mm pipeline diversion project at Thean Teik Highway, in front of the Farlim market.

"The SWSI is necessary to facilitate ongoing state development works for the benefit of the people," he added.

It was reported that about 337,000 water consumers on both the mainland and island would be affected by a scheduled water supply interruption (SDSI) lasting between 24 and 48 hours at the end of April.

The interruption is necessary to facilitate final connection works for Penang's new RM8.7 million (Phase 1) Sungai Prai river-crossing (SP-RCP) pipeline in Seberang Prai.

When completed, the 1.35m SP-RCP pipeline will support a maximum treated water pumping capacity of 247 million litres per day (MLD).