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## Penang braces for statewide dry taps as 60-hour water cut looms



Penang, which is set to undergo one of its most significant planned water cuts starting Friday night, has reminded more than 340,000 water consumers to store sufficient water for usage. - NSTP FILE PIC

GEORGE TOWN: Penang, which is set to undergo one of its most significant planned water cuts starting Friday night, has reminded more than 340,000 water consumers to store sufficient water for usage.

The planned water cuts are expected to last for between 24 and 60 hours, depending on the area.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said all affected areas in Seberang Prai Utara (SPU), Seberang Prai Tengah (SPT) and the northeast district on Penang island,

which account for about 40 per cent of affected water consumers, would experience water cuts lasting up to 24 hours.

He said all areas in Seberang Prai Selatan (SPS) except Kampung Sungai Baong, Kampung Wellesley, Taman Seruling Emas, Taman Widuri, Sungai Duri and the Penang Prison Quarters would experience water cuts of up to 48 hours.

Also included were the southwest districts except Balik Pulau, Gertak Sanggul, Kampung Terang, Pulau Betong and Sungai Ara.

The SPS and southwest districts accounted for 48 per cent of the affected water consumers.

"As for End-of-line (EoL) and high ground neighbourhoods (in the SPS and southwest districts) and the remaining 12 per cent of the affected water consumers, they will face water cuts of up to 60 hours.

"As announced earlier, PBAPP will deploy a fleet of 80 water tankers to fill and refill 182 tanks, which will be placed at strategic locations throughout the state.

Domestic water consumers affected by the water cuts may collect water from these water tanks in their respective neighbourhoods," he said in a statement today.

Pathmanathan said the planned water cuts are required to facilitate simultaneous works on 23 urgent projects throughout the state to improve water supply services for about 465,000 water consumers in the service areas of the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

He said physical works for all 23 projects are scheduled for completion by 4pm on Saturday.

"Water supply recovery will commence after the final testing and commissioning of all projects and a restart of water treatment and pumping works at the Sungai Dua WTP.

"The staggered water supply recovery process is largely due to treated water from Sungai Dua reaching consumers in different locations at different times.

"In general, 'upstream consumers' (who are located closer to Sungai Dua) will receive their water supply ahead of 'downstream consumers' further away," he added.

The key benefits of the planned water cuts projects include more water supply, better water pressure and a reduction of intermittent water supply issues in EoL and high ground neighbourhoods, as well as faster water supply recovery from future planned and unscheduled water supply interruptions arising from mishaps.

Last year, PBAPP supplied an average of 1,021 million litres per day (MLD) of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP throughout the state.

PBAPP is planning to pump an additional 50 MLD of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP to the island, following the water works this Friday.