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Penang signs deal with Perak to secure water supply for 40 years

Chief minister Chow Kon Yeow says it is the most significant water supply agreement in Penang's history since the implementation of the Sungai Muda water scheme in 1973.



Previous reports said the Perak government will likely tap water from Sungai Perak which will be sent to Penang through the Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park. (PBAPP pic)

GEORGE TOWN:

The signing of a conditional bulk water supply agreement between Penang and Perak today will guarantee sufficient water supply for Penang for 40 years from 2032.

Chief minister Chow Kon Yeow said the agreement between the Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) and Prasarana Air dan Irigasi Perak Sdn Bhd (PAIP Perak) was the most significant water supply pact in the state's history since the implementation of the Sungai Muda water scheme in 1973.

Under the agreement, PBAPP will pay an annual capacity charge of RM210 million to support the project's infrastructure development investments, in addition to a treated water charge of RM1.70 per cubic metre (1,000 litres), subject to review every three years.

Chow said the agreement was planned to meet Penang's growing water demand, in line with population growth, socioeconomic development, and new investments.

"Penang's water consumption stood at 865 million litres per day (MLD) in 2025, and it is projected to increase to 1,162 MLD or more by 2032 due to various factory expansion projects and property developments," he said in a statement.

He said that under the agreement, Perak was prepared to supply between 300 MLD and 500 MLD of treated water to PBAPP, while a new 500 MLD-capacity water treatment plant equipped with pumping stations, treated water storage reservoirs, large-scale pipelines and supporting infrastructure would be constructed in Perak to realise the project.

Chow said the project was not intended to replace Sungai Muda as Penang's main raw water source, but would serve as a second source to strengthen the security of the state's water supply, particularly in the Seberang Perai Selatan and Seberang Perai Tengah areas.

He said PBAPP was also studying the possibility of using seawater desalination technology to complement the project as part of a long-term water supply solution for Penang, despite the higher costs compared with conventional water treatment methods. - BERNAMA