

16-6-2026

## Penang invests RM2.9 billion in 12 water supply projects



GEORGE TOWN: Penang is investing RM2.9 billion in 12 major water projects to ensure sufficient supply and support the state's growth beyond 2030.

PBA Holdings Bhd and Penang Water Supply Corporation chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said Penang's socioeconomic growth trajectory towards 2032 could not be compromised, held back or delayed by insufficient water supply.

He said the corporation and the federal government were fully committed to completing the 12 projects by 2031 to meet a projected 34.3 per cent increase in water consumption.

Penang's water consumption stood at 865 million litres per day (MLD) in 2025 and is expected to rise to at least 1,162 MLD by 2032, driven by industrial expansion, large-scale property developments and new economic projects across the state.

Among the developments expected to increase water demand are factory expansion and opening projects involving Intel, Osram, Siliconware Precision and Western Digital, as well as major property projects such as Andaman Island, Penang International Commercial City, The Dew and The Skyline.

Pathmanathan said the corporation was implementing six projects under its Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030), including new water treatment plants (WTPs) in Mengkuang, Sungai Kerian and Sungai Muda, as well as the Tasek Gelugor-Sungai Puyu Water Supply Scheme.

"The projects are expected to increase PBAPP's maximum designed water treatment capacity by 478 MLD while reducing Seberang Prai's dependence on treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP.

"Two major pipeline projects are also being implemented to enable PBAPP to pump up to 600 MLD of treated water from Sungai Dua to Penang Island by 2030, compared with 400 MLD currently.

"In addition, an 80 MLD WTP at Sungai Kerian is being developed on a build-operate-transfer basis and is scheduled to begin supplying treated water to Seberang Prai Selatan by 2027," he said to reporters here today.

The federal government, through the Water Supply Division under the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, has pledged to complete five supporting projects between 2027 and 2029.

These include a new Sungai Muda Barrage at Rantau Panjang, projects under the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Plan, raw water resource developments at Sungai Kerian, water intake works in Teluk Bahang, and a comprehensive study on Penang's future raw water resources.

Pathmanathan said the estimated investment for the remaining WCP 2030 projects stood at RM2.098 billion, while the five federal government projects were valued at RM838 million.

"In total, these 12 water projects represent a total investment of about RM2.9 billion over five years.

"This multi-billion ringgit investment encapsulates the depth of the federal government, Penang government and PBAPP's commitment to ensuring water supply sufficiency in Penang in the 2030s," he added.