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PRESS STATEMENT

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SUNGAI PERAK: THE BEST FUTURE RAW WATER RESOURCE FOR PENANG AND NORTH PERAK

- **Sungai Perak is under-utilised as a raw water resource.**
- **The Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) will facilitate water security in Penang and North Perak until Year 2050.**
- **Conventional treatment of river water is the most cost-efficient option for water supply, and will have the lowest impact on water tariffs.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 3.4.2019: Penang is seeking the implementation of the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) because it is the most logical, rational and economical option for achieving water supply security in Penang and North Perak until Year 2050.

Sungai Perak is the best option for Penang now due to the following 6 reasons:

1. It is readily available raw water resource that is presently under-utilised.
2. It is a raw water resource that can serve 2 states: Perak and Penang.
3. The proposed SPRWTS is an inter-state raw water transfer project. When Penang migrated to the National Water Services Restructuring Initiative (NWSRI) in 2011, the Federal Government agreed to fund and implement raw water resource projects for Penang.

4. The costs of constructing a conventional water treatment plant in Penang to treat raw water transferred from Sungai Perak are significantly lower than the costs of setting up a desalination plant of the same capacity.
5. Operating a conventional river water treatment system is more cost-efficient than recycling or desalinating water. Large-scale desalination and reverse osmosis (or ultra-filtration) processes are also more energy-intensive and cost-intensive.

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd's (PBAPP's) operating costs affect Penang water tariffs.

Please note that Penang's current average tariff for the first 35,000 litres of domestic consumption per month is RM0.32 per 1,000 litres.

In Singapore, desalination and water recycling technologies are employed alongside conventional water treatment operations. The water price for the first 35,000 litres of domestic consumption in Singapore is now RM7.44 (SGD2.47) per 1,000 litres, with the water conservation tax and waterborne fee.

6. Water recycling and rainwater harvesting require additional specialised infrastructure, including separate pipeline networks for channelling the raw water and/or distributing the processed water.

Based on these key factors, PBAPP will continue to seek the implementation of the SPRWTS for the long-term benefit of Penang towards 2050. The new Ministry of Water Land and Natural Resources (KATS) has expressed its willingness to intervene and to assist in prompt implementation.

SPRWTS was proposed after an independent masterplan study

In 2009, PBAPP commissioned an independent "Masterplan Study for Potable Water Supply in Penang until Year 2050". This study projected Penang's treated water demand to be 1,483 million litres per day (MLD) by 2030; 1,696 MLD by 2040 and 1,884 MLD by 2050.



Accordingly, the study proposed the SPRWTS as a solution that may deliver 1,000 MLD of raw water to Penang in 4 phases until 2050. Due to this volume of potential yield, the SPRWTS, by itself, can ensure water supply security for Penang and North Perak until Year 2050.

As such, the Penang State Government and PBAPP have been seeking to tap Sungai Perak as a second or alternative raw water resource for Penang since 2011.

Besides meeting projected water demand, the SPRWTS will also mitigate the risks of Penang's over-dependency on Sungai Muda as a raw water resource, especially during dry seasons.

However, the previous Federal Government had failed to implement the SPRWTS in the period 2012 – 2018.

Following a meeting with KATS on 1.3.2019, the Penang State Government and PBAPP are looking forward to the implementation of a Sungai Perak inter-state raw water transfer solution soon.

If the primary objective is to ensure water security for Penang until Year 2050, Sungai Perak represents the best solution for the next 30 years.

Continuous good water supply, 24/7, has been an integral but understated element in Penang's success story in the past. It will become a crucial element for Penang's success in the future.

Thank You.

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