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PRESS STATEMENT

by DATO' IR. JASENI MAIDINSA,
CEO of PBA Holdings Bhd and PBAPP.

PENANG WILL BE THE 1ST STATE TO ACHIEVE 100% TECHNICAL PERSONNEL COMPETENCY IN WATER SUPPLY ENGINEERING BY THE END OF 2019

- **PBAPP has achieved 88.7% SKM-level certification for its technical personnel, and is targeting 100% by the end of 2019.**

PENANG, Thursday, 4.4.2019: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) is targeting to achieve 100% technical personnel competency by the end of this year.

At present, PBAPP employs a total of 204 senior technicians, technicians and plant operators to support its water distribution and water treatment operations.

To date, 181 of the 204 technical personnel have obtained Malaysian Skills Certificate (*Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia – SKM*) certifications. This includes 138 technical personnel graduates who will receive SKM certificates today under *Sistem Latihan Dual Nasional* (SLDN) programme as required by SPAN KPI.

As such, PBAPP has achieved 88.7% technical personnel competency. We will help the remaining 23 technical employees to secure their SKM certifications before the end of 2019, to reach the 100% mark.

The SKM was introduced in 1993 by the Department of Skills Development (*Jabatan Pembangunan Kemahiran - JPK*), a department of the Ministry of Human Resource (MoHR). As such, SKM graduates are recognised by the Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN) as competent and skilled workers for an industry.

When all of our senior technicians, technicians and plant operators from water distribution and water treatment operations hold SKM certifications, we mark another “first” achievement for Penang and PBAPP.

Penang will become the first state in Malaysia to achieve 100% technical personnel competency in the water supply engineering industry in order to fully comply to the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) key performance indicator (KPI) that requires all water supply technical personnel to be certified as competent, under Section (49)1 of the Water Services Industry Act 2006 (WSIA 2006).

Section (49)1 WSIA states that:

Qualifications to operate, etc., water supply system and sewerage system

“No part of any water supply system or sewerage system shall be worked, managed or operated or cause to be worked, managed or operated except by and under the control of persons possessing such qualifications and holding such certificates provided in this Act or as may be prescribed.”

In November 2016, SPAN issued a circular stating that the qualifications mentioned in the Act is SKM certification and the KPI for the purpose of licensing renewal for all water supply organisations is SKM certification for their technical personnel.

To date, no water supply organisation has achieved 100% compliance to this SPAN KPI.

Penang Water Services Academy (PWSA) and SKM Certification

Today, 199 of PBAPP's personnel will receive SKM-SLDN certifications after successfully completing SLDN programmes at the Penang Water Services Academy (PWSA).

PWSA has offered water industry-specific SKM courses in Penang since 2010. The academy has helped our personnel to earn a total of 689 SKM certifications and is managed by PBA Resources Sdn Bhd (PBAR), a 100% owned subsidiary of PBAPP's public-listed holdings company, PBA Holdings Bhd.

PWSA is a JPK-accredited water industry training centre and its courses are approved under Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF).

PBAPP sponsors all training expenses for its personnel at the PWSA. As a registered contributor, we are able to offset some expenses with HRDF claims. We are also grateful to JPK for providing us with SLDN incentives to conduct SKM-SLDN programmes at the academy.

For PBAPP, the targeted achievement of 100% technical competency by 2019 reflects another important aspect of our public service commitment to the people and the state.

We want all PBAPP personnel to work hard and work smart, so as to ensure continuous good water supply in Penang and achieve water supply security towards Year 2050.

Thank You.

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