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PRESS STATEMENT

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

PIL1 CONSULTANTS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO COMPLY WITH STATE LEGISLATIONS

- **PBAPP has officially informed DoE that the consultants for the Pan Island Link 1 (PIL1) project must comply with the provisions of the Penang State Water Supply (Catchment Area) Orders 2004 and 2009.**

PENANG, Friday, 21.2.2020: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has informed the Department of the Environment (DoE) in Putrajaya that the PIL1 consultants must comply with state legislations, *vis-à-vis* the Air Itam Dam and all other related water assets in Penang.

In a letter to the DoE dated 20.8.2018, PBAPP has stated that the PIL1 consultants must ensure that all the PIL1-related blasting and drilling works do not compromise the structural integrity of the Air Itam Dam.

In the same letter, PBAPP has also requested for the PIL consultants to submit an “engineering vibration study report” to verify that the PIL1 construction works will not jeopardise the dam and any other water assets, including raw water intakes, treated water reservoirs and major pipelines.

Following the PIL1 Townhall Session on 21.9.2018, PBAPP sent a second letter to the DoE, dated 3.10.2018, stating that the consultants must comply with Water Supply (Catchment Area) Order 2004 and Water Supply (Catchment Area) Order 2009.

The reason for this is that the PIL1 alignment will pass through the areas near the Tat's Intake and Main Intake for the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant.

Copies of both these letters were also sent to SRS Consortium. PBAPP is awaiting their “engineering vibration study report”.

Roads may be safely built near dams

While PBAPP has expressed its concerns regarding the construction of the PIL1, we also note that roads and highways may be built safely near dams.

In Kedah, roads, highways and bridges have been built near the Muda Dam and the Beris Dam, as well as along the length and across Sungai Muda, Penang's main raw water resource. These road infrastructure projects do not appear to have jeopardised the dams or the river.

According to news reports in April 2019, the DoE has given the "green light" for environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of the PIL1 project, with 56 conditions. As mentioned, PBAPP has informed DoE of its concerns through two official letters, prior to DoE issuing its approval. In this context, we may surmise that all PBAPP's water supply concerns have been given due consideration by DoE.

The challenge for the PIL1 consultants and contractors now is to ensure that construction works do not, in any way, compromise the safety and structural integrity of the Air Itam Dam; as well as the functionality of all water intakes, reservoirs and pipelines in Penang. The keyword is "safety".

PBAPP, as the water supply operator that serves Penang, will keep an eye on the construction works. We will also carefully monitor the status of the Air Itam Dam, Air Itam Reservoir, Tat's Intake and Main Intake for the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant, and all main pipelines.

If there are any negative consequences, we will not hesitate to file a report to the relevant authorities. The Badan Kawal Selia Air Pulau Pinang (Penang State Water Regulatory Authority) and the Penang State Government are empowered to take action against all parties undertaking the PIL1 project.

Thank You.

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