

27.10.2020

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

by Dato' Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
PBA Holdings Bhd (PBAHB) and  
Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP)

### **PENANG ACCEPTS THE HANDING OVER OF THE STRATEGIC EXPANDED MENGGUANG DAM ON 26 OCTOBER 2020.**

- **Decision to take back the strategic expanded Mengkuang Dam is an important move to guarantee water supply to more than 80% of Penang's water demand until 2025.**
- **PBAPP will draw down the raw water reserves of the Mengkuang Dam for treated water production at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant during the annual dry seasons when the levels of Sungai Muda run low.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 27.10.2020: The handing over ceremony from the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) to the Penang State Government was held at the Mengkuang Dam grounds yesterday morning.

Representing KASA was YBhg Puan Hajah Azizah binti Ariffin (Deputy Secretary General) while YB Zairil bin Khir Johari (Penang State Exco for Infrastructure and Transport) represented the Penang State Government. In attendance to witness this important ceremony were YB Dr. Norlela Ariffin (Penang State Exco for Agrotech and Food Security, Rural Development and Health), YB Steven Sim (MP, Bukit Mertajam), YB Dato' Norazmi bin Mohd Narawi (Penang State Legal Advisor), YBhg. Dato' Ahmad Faizal Abdul Rahman (CEO, SPAN), YBhg. Dato' Sr Haji Rozali bin Haji Mohamud (Datuk Bandar, MPSP) and other top officials from KASA, the Penang State Government and PBAPP.

The Penang State Government's decision to take back the expanded Mengkuang Dam from the Federal Government yesterday is a necessary strategic move to protect the interests of 631,250 registered water consumers in Penang until 2025.

The maximum effective capacity of the Mengkuang Dam has been upgraded from 22 billion litres to 73.5 billion litres, which is approximately 27 times the capacity of Air Itam Dam. As at 26.10.2020, the effective capacity of the Mengkuang Dam was 91.4%.

Penang's primary raw water resource is Sungai Muda. More than 80% of the raw water that Penang needs daily is abstracted from the Muda River at the Lahar Tiang Intake, within Penang's state boundaries. The raw water is abstracted from Sungai Muda and channeled via the 14.0km Sungai Dua Canal for treatment at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Penang's largest and most important WTP.

However, the level of Sungai Muda will run low during the annual dry seasons. When PBAPP cannot abstract sufficient raw water from Sungai Muda to maintain optimum production at the Sungai Dua WTP, the raw water supply will need to be supplemented by drawing down the reserves of the Mengkuang Dam. This is a critical measure to guarantee sufficient water supply in Penang during the dry seasons.

In other words, the raw water reserves of the Mengkuang Dam serve as a "strategic back-up raw water supply" during dry seasons. Having up to 73.5 billion litres of raw water in hand ensures Penang have sufficient raw water to cope with the dry season demands.

### **Addressing the threat to water supply sustainability**

In the period from 1.9.2019 – 18.9.2019, there was abnormally less rainfall over Penang Island. The amount of rainfall is 33.8% lower than the average rainfall for the 3-year corresponding period in 2017, 2018 and 2019

The likeliest cause for the abnormally low rainfall is climate change.

One of our key contingency plans is to optimise treated water production to meet water supply demands on Penang Island.

To do so, PBAPP has implemented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Penang Twin Submarine Pipelines project (3<sup>rd</sup> PTSP), which is scheduled for commissioning by December 2020. This 3<sup>rd</sup> PTSP has the capacity to supply 315 million litres per day to Penang Island from the Sungai Dua WTP.

In this context, the sustainability of continuous good water supply on Penang Island is dependent on two key factors:

- Availability of raw water from Sungai Muda, backed up by the reserves of the Mengkuang Dam to maintain optimum treatment capacity at the Sungai Dua WTP; and
- Efficient and effective pumping of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP to the island, via the existing twin submarine pipelines and the new 3<sup>rd</sup> PTSP.

Thank You.

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