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MEDIA RELEASE 1

## **PENANG CHIEF MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS EXPANDED MENGGUANG DAM**

- **Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow officiated the opening of the expanded 86.4 billion litre Mengkuang Dam in Seberang Prai, Penang, today.**
- **Penang will continue to seek the completion of Phases 2B and 2C of the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project (MDEP) by the Federal Government.**

PENANG, Saturday, 9.1.2021: Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow officiated the opening of the expanded Mengkuang Dam today.

The Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) had handed back the expanded dam to Penang on 26.10.2020. Since 10.12.2020, a 2.7km stretch of the dam crest has been opened to a maximum of 350 visitors at any one time, from 7.00am to 7.00pm daily.

Public access to the expanded Mengkuang Dam was subject to Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd's (PBAPP's) Covid-19 public safety rules and regulations. It will stay open as long as everyone is willing to use it safely and responsibly.

Those interested in visiting the dam may preview the full list of safety rules and regulation at [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my) or PBAPP's Facebook page.

Speaking at the dam site today, YAB Tuan Chow said the opening of the expanded dam marked an important milestone in the history of water supply in Penang.

“The story behind the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project (MDEP) began more than 9 years ago, when Penang agreed to migrate to the Federal Government's National Water Services Restructuring Initiative, or NWSRI.

“In 2011, the Penang State Government and PBAPP successfully negotiated for the Federal Government to fund and undertake the MDEP, in order to address Penang’s growing water supply needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” he said.

“The MDEP was originally scheduled for completion in 2016. However, the expanded dam was only handed back to Penang on 26.10.2020,” he added.

YAB Tuan Chow said “the expanded Mengkuang Dam is largest dam built in the history of the State of Penang, with a maximum surface area of 3.4 sq.km, as compared to the original maximum surface area of 1.74 sq.km in 1985.”

“More importantly, the dam’s effective capacity has been increased by 293%, from 22.0 billion litres to 86.4 billion litres. We need it today to mitigate the risks of a water shortage during prolonged dry seasons, in this age of climate change,” he said.

The MDEP is a Federal project that was undertaken by the Federal Government at no direct cost to Penang and its people. Funded by a RM1.2 billion Federal grant, the full work scope of the MDEP comprises 4 key phases:

| Phases |   | Status (as at 9.1.2021)   |
|--------|---|---|
| 1      | Expansion of the Mengkuang Dam’s effective capacity from 22.0 billion litres to 86.4 billion litres and associated works.   | Completed (10.4.2017)   |
| 2A     | Upgrading of the Mak Sulong Pumping Station, to increase raw water pumping capacity from Sungai Kulim, from 200 million litres per day (MLD) to 400 MLD.  | Completed (28.9.2017)   |
| 2B     | Laying of 7km of a 1.6m diameter raw water pipeline from the Mak Sulong Pumping Station to the Sungai Dua Canal. This new pipeline will upgrade the raw water drawdown capacity of the dam from 300 MLD to 600 MLD. | Final stage of land acquisition. The Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA)’s water supply section to implement this project in 2021. |

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|----|---|---|
| 2C | Construction of the 440 MLD Lahar Yooi Pumping Station to enable rapid filling and refilling of the dam by pumping water from a second raw water resource: Sungai Muda. | Included in the Feasibility Study to construct a new barrage at Rantau Panjang for consideration by the Federal Government. |
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YAB Tuan Chow noted that while the Federal Government has handed over an expanded Mengkuang Dam to Penang, the “MDEP story is not over yet.”

“We are still awaiting the implementation of Phase 2B and Phase 2C by the Federal Government, as promised,” he added.

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