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Media Release

by DATO' IR. JASENI MAIDINSA

CEO, PBA Holdings Bhd and PBAPP

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER FROM KULIM AIRPORT PROJECT INTO SUNGAI MUDA UNACCEPTABLE

- **EIA report of Kulim International Airport (KXP) and “Aerotropolis” shows plans for a sewage treatment plant that will discharge wastewater into Sungai Muda, 6 km upstream of Lahar Tiang Intake.**

PENANG, Monday, 30.8.2021: According to documents published by the Federal Government, the proposed Kulim International Airport (KXP) and “Aerotropolis” project will discharge wastewater into Sungai Muda, the primary raw water resource for Penang and South Kedah.

The Department of Environment, under the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA), has published the public consultation documents regarding the KXP environmental impact assessment (EIA) report online.*

In one of the linked “figures” shared on Google Drive (Figure 5.5.12), the planned location of a sewage treatment plant (STP) point is at Sungai Jerong, a tributary of Sungai Muda. This STP point is just 2km away from Sungai Muda. In all likelihood, it will discharge wastewater into Sungai Jerong, which will then flow into Sungai Muda.** Downstream of this STP point are Kedah’s 3 SADA water treatment plant intakes and 7 JPS irrigation intakes and Penang’s 1 water treatment plant intake and 2 JPS irrigation intakes.

Both online publications are accessible to the public, and viewable through the following online links:

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<https://www.doe.gov.my/portalv1/en/info-hebahan/pengumuman-teks/laporan-penilaian-kesan-kepada-alam-sekeliling-eia-bagi-projek-pembangunan-lapangan-terbang-antarabangsa-kulim-kxp-dan-kedah-aerotropolis-mukim-sidam-kiri-daerah-kuala-muda-kedah-darul-aman/330048>

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XCJ-a95-JKMvSnkXJE2Tj4YG9-phoWst>

Unacceptable for Penang and PBAPP

The planned discharge of wastewater into Sungai Muda presents an unacceptable scenario for Penang and Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP).

PBAPP abstracts raw water from Sungai Muda at its Lahar Tiang Intake daily, just 6km downstream of the point where wastewater will be discharged from the KXP project site. *(Kindly refer to “Appendix A” for the relevant map.)*

More than 80% of the raw water that Penang needs daily is abstracted from Sungai Muda at the Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Prai.

Since 1973, when the Muda River Water Scheme was commissioned, PBAPP has been carefully monitoring the quality of raw water abstracted from Sungai Muda. Every day, we seek to minimise raw water quality risks, with our customers’ safety and good health in mind.

Raw water abstracted from Sungai Muda is treated using conventional water treatment technologies at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

The Sungai Dua WTP treats river water of acceptable quality, within the safety margins designated under the National Drinking Water Quality Assurance Programme set by the Ministry of Health. It is not equipped to deal with treating wastewater or river water with unknown or high levels of chemical/microbiological contents which may be toxic or hazardous.

As such, the Federal Government must not allow or approve a massive project that discharges wastewater into Penang’s primary raw water resource.

If anything goes wrong in the KXP project site upstream, water supply services in Penang and South Kedah will be immediately and inevitably compromised. The well-being and good health of the people must be considered as a matter of the highest priority.

Please note that the water supply risks/threats posed by the KXP project proposal are applicable to both the short-to-medium term construction phase and the long-term operation phase.

In Penang, PBAPP supplies treated water to 1.776 million people on a daily basis, 24/7. As such, any discharge of wastewater into Sungai Muda represents an unacceptable risk to the well-being for 1.78 million people in Penang, as well as for the businesses that contributed an estimated RM94.7 billion to the Malaysian GDP in 2020.

Best solution: project relocation

PBAPP recommends to the DOE, KASA and the Federal Government that the proposed KXP and “Aerotropolis” project be relocated to a “safer location”, as far away from Sungai Muda as possible.

The reasons are simple:

- The public will not accept planned discharge of wastewater into their raw water resource: it is too risky, very dangerous and intolerably distasteful.
- The proposed airport project may be relocated. Sungai Muda, an irreplaceable raw water resource from Penang, cannot be relocated.
- The interests and well-being of the people and businesses in Penang must be prioritised above plans for a new airport that may contaminate Sungai Muda.

Thank You.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Unit
Tel : 04-200 6607
Email : syarifah@pba.com.my



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Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd
199901001061 (475961-X)

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APPENDIX A



MAP: PLANNED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) POINT, NEAR SUNGAI MUDA, FOR KXP & "AEROTROPOLIS" PROJECT.
(derived from Figure 5.5.12, KXP EIA Report, as published online for public consultation by DOE, and Google Maps.)