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Press Statement

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PBAPP RESPONDING TO A 10.4% SURGE IN WATER CONSUMPTION IN PENANG

Penang's daily water consumption has surged by 10.4% in 3 years, from 843 MLD in 2019 to 931 MLD in May 2022. This is a significant increase in a short time span. The following data summarises the increase in Penang's water consumption:

Year/Date	Consumption (MLD) million litres per day	Comment
2019	843	Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic phenomenon reaching Malaysia
2020	845	1 st year of Covid-19 pandemic
2021	860	2 nd year of Covid-19 pandemic
21.5.2022	931	After Malaysia entered the endemic phase of Covid-19

Kindly note that while most economic sectors were not allowed to operate in 2020 and 2021, water consumption still increased in Penang due to increased consumption by domestic consumers.

In comparison, historical data shows that water consumption increased by only 7.8% in the 9-year period from 2010 to 2019, from 782 MLD in 2010 to 843 MLD in 2019.

PBAPP responses to alleviate water supply issues in SPS

Short-term measures

1. Maximising water production at Penang's 9 water treatment plants

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has been pushing the limits of water production at its 9 water treatment plants in Penang, especially at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP),

in Seberang Perai Utara, which produces more than 80% of the treated water in Penang. All WTPs in Penang are now running at optimal capacity, 24/7.

2. Diversion of more treated water to Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS)

PBAPP is pumping more treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP to SPS to meet the water demand of 32,993 registered water consumers.

3. Deployment of water tankers and static tanks to SPS from May 2022

PBAPP has been deploying water tankers, static water tanks and personnel to address issues of unscheduled water supply interruptions at end-of-line (EOL) and higher ground areas in SPS, including Taman Seruling Emas, Taman Widuri, Kampung Sungai Duri, Kampung Sungai Baong, Permatang Ara and the Sungai Baong Industrial Area.

4. Implementation of the SPS-Water Supply Contingency Plan 2022 (SPS-WSCP 2022) from 26.5.2022

The SPS-WSCP is now prioritising water supply to 32,993 water consumers in SPS for 12 hours, from 6.01pm – 6.00am daily. During these overnight hours, water supply to the Batu Kawan and Bukit Minyak industrial areas is being regulated. Hence, more water is being pumped to residential areas in SPS.

Since all domestic premises should be equipped with 24-hour water storage tanks, this measure has allowed the majority of SPS domestic consumers to fill their water tanks and store sufficient water for use daily. PBAPP is fine-tuning the SPS-WSCP to optimise supply to EOL and higher ground areas

Medium-term measures soon

- Installation of booster pump

PBAPP will install a booster pump to pump more water to EOL and higher ground areas in SPS, including Taman Seruling Emas, Taman Widuri, Kampung Sungai Duri, Kampung Sungai Baong, Permatang Ara and the Sungai Baong Industrial Area.

- Upgrading the Bukit Panchor WTP

Plans are underway to increase the water treatment output of the Bukit Panchor by 5 - 10 MLD. This measure will allow PBAPP to produce more treated water in SPS for supply in SPS.

Only factories with 48-hour on-site water storage will be approved

PBAPP will only approve water supply services for new factories that are equipped with 48-hour storage tanks on site. This is to comply with the Water Service Industry Act 2006 and SPAN's Uniform Technical Guideline (SPAN UTG).

Please note that the water supply issues in SPS were not caused by any major mishap or breakdown in PBAPP's water supply services in Penang. PBAPP's water supply engineering data shows that there has been an abnormal increase in water consumption over the last 3 years.

Nevertheless, PBAPP will continue to do its best to alleviate the water supply issues in SPS.

Thank You.