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Media Release

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CEO, PBAHB and PBAPP.

PBAPP WILLING TO WORK WITH PENANG SCHOOLS TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY

- **Following a 6-month water bill rebate for qualified schools in Penang, PBAPP will help schools to intensify water conservation campaigns.**
- **Water conservation in schools is a more rational, sustainable and “green” solution than providing rebates.**

PENANG, Thursday, 5.10.2023: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) is willing to work with all schools in Penang to help them to save water and save money.

Water conservation is a more rational, sustainable and “green” solution than providing water bill rebates. Measures that may be taken include:

- 1) Installation of water saving devices (WSDs) in all school toilets to “automatically” save water with every use;
- 2) Teaching and reminding pupils to practise water saving tips such as not to leave a tap running, minimising usage of spray hoses and reporting leaking taps or faucets to school administrators immediately;
- 3) Reducing overall water consumption for gardening, cleaning and maintenance work in schools;
- 4) Banning washing of cars or motorcycles in school premises;
- 5) Implementing school “water conservation projects” such as innovative rainwater harvesting systems to collect water for gardening use and/or installing toilet systems that minimise water usage for flushing purposes;
- 6) Repairing/replacing all leaking pipes, taps and faucets in school premises promptly; and
- 7) Contacting PBAPP to replace old school water meters that may be malfunctioning.

2023 “Non-Domestic” Tariff Review in Penang

PBAPP is aware that the implementation of new “non-domestic” water tariffs in Penang in 2023 would increase the operational costs of schools here. However, we would like the schools and the public to kindly consider the following facts:

- On 29.7.2022, the (previous) Federal Government gazetted new “non-domestic” water tariffs, and not PBAPP or the Penang State Government;
- The (previous) Federal Government also re-categorised water consumption by schools as “non-domestic” consumption in July 2022;
- On 29.7.2022, “non-domestic” tariffs were reviewed concurrently for all 11 states in Peninsular Malaysia and the federal territories of Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Labuan;
- About 5 months later, on 1.1.2023, PBAPP implemented the new “non-domestic” tariffs in Penang, as gazetted by the Federal Government;
- On 16.4.2023, Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow announced that Penang schools may apply for a 6-month water bill rebate (from April to September 2023).
- As at August 2023, a total of 85 Penang schools had successfully applied for the rebate. Projections indicate that the total value of the rebate is about RM200,000 for the period from April to August 2023.

2023 Penang schools rebate is a “one-off” goodwill gesture

From PBAPP’s standpoint, the 2023 rebate for schools in Penang should be regarded as a “one-off” goodwill gesture, due to the following reasons:

- The average “non-domestic” tariff in Penang is **RM2.06 per 1,000 litres** (for the first 500,000 litres per month). It is amongst the lowest in Peninsular Malaysia. The national average is RM2.24 per 1,000 litres.
- There are more than 10,000 schools in Malaysia (according to 2020 data published by the Ministry of Education). As far as we know, about 99% of all Malaysian schools have adjusted to paying new tariffs for their water supply since August 2022, without rebates.

- Throughout Malaysia, all non-domestic consumers, including hospitals, orphanages, senior citizen homes, dialysis centres, charities, colleges, the armed forces, police and fire department have also been paying more for water since August 2022.
- In 2022, PBAPP provided domestic water subsidies for 585,740 domestic consumers in Penang. The total subsidy cost was RM103.71 million.
- In the period from 2023 to 2028, PBAPP has to invest total of RM1.1836 billion to undertake 8 projects under its “Water Contingency Plan 2030” (WCP 2030). These projects are required to ensure water supply sufficiency in Penang until Year 2030.

Schools may seek “water saving” support and assistance from PBAPP

In truth, water bills comprise only a small fraction of the overall operational costs of schools, compared to costs of human resources, electricity, fuel, maintenance, support services and consumable supplies.

Moreover, any Penang water consumer can reduce a water bill by simply using water wisely. This rule applies to households as well as schools.

Nevertheless, it is important for Penang to develop a water saving culture because we are a water-stressed state.

PBAPP has installed water saving devices at 287 mosques and suraus and all PBAPP buildings to promote water conservation. PBAPP has also been promoting its “Aqua Save” water conservation programme for schools under the “Penang Green Schools” project managed by the Penang Green Council.

We have the experience and resources to help Penang schools to save water and money. We are ready to help. School officials can contact the following PBAPP personnel for support and assistance:

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Thank You.

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