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Media Release 1

RM20 MILLION PROJECT UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY SERVICES IN SEBERANG PERAI SELATAN

- **New RM20 million Bukit Panchor DAF (water treatment) plant targeted for commissioning in August 2023. It will increase PBAPP's water treatment capacity in SPS by a maximum of 10 million litres per day (MLD).**

PENANG, Saturday, 11.3.2022: A RM20 million water supply project is being implemented in Bukit Panchor to alleviate water supply issues in Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS).

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) is constructing a new dissolved air flotation (DAF) water treatment plant within the existing premises of the Bukit Panchor Water Treatment Plant. This DAF plant will have a maximum design capacity of 10 million litres per day (MLD). Work has commenced from 8.12.2022 and is scheduled for completion in August 2023.

Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow led the project ground-breaking ceremony and reviewed the progress of works today with YB Zairil Khir Johari. They were briefed on-site by the PBAPP CEO, Ir. Pathmanathan K.

YAB Tuan Chow said Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) had been directed to implement more water supply projects to meet higher water demand and address water supply issues in SPS.

“Understandably, PBAPP has operational and budget constraints. However, the Penang State Government is prioritising a post-pandemic socioeconomic resurgence so that we may achieve the goals of our Penang2030 vision,” he said.

“Water supply sufficiency is a non-negotiable requirement for Penang’s future socioeconomic progress. Without sufficient water supply, we cannot become a family-focused green and smart state that inspires the nation.

“We must always ensure that we have enough water to achieve a brighter future,” he added.

Key Water Supply Projects in Seberang Perai since 2020

YAB Tuan Chow noted that PBAPP had invested a RM11.5 million in 2020 and 2021 to upgrade the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Seberang Perai. The Sungai Dua WTP is Penang's largest WTP and it supplies 63.37% of the volume of treated water that is consumed in Seberang Perai daily. In January and February 2023, this plant produced an average of 1,008 MLD of treated water as compared to 909 MLD in 2019 (before the pandemic).

In January 2023, PBAPP also commissioned the RM1.2 million Permatang Tinggi Pump Station in SPS.

"Today, I am pleased to see that the construction of the new RM20 million Bukit Panchor DAF plant in SPS is progressing as scheduled," he said.

"As such, it may be said that PBAPP has now invested a total of more than RM30 million in 3 key projects over the past 3 years to upgrade its water supply infrastructure in Seberang Perai. These projects should also help to alleviate the water supply issues in SPS.

"I urge PBAPP to continue implementing rational water supply projects to address the water supply needs of the people of Penang. Please do not stop until we achieve water supply sufficiency towards 2030," YAB Tuan Chow said.

YAB Tuan Chow said published PBAPP data indicated that daily water consumption in Penang surged by 10.4% in 3 years, from 843 MLD in 2019 to 931 MLD in May 2022.

"A 10.4% surge in water consumption in just 4 years is unprecedented in the recent history of water supply in Penang. In the preceding 9-year period, consumption increased by only 7.8%, from 782 MLD in 2010 to 843 MLD in 2019," he added. "Due to extraordinarily high water demand in Seberang Perai, we are facing intermittent water supply issues in some higher ground and end-of-line areas in SPS."

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