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PRESS STATEMENT

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SMALL STATE WITH BIG WATER ISSUES: PBAPP BRIEFS SPAN ON 6 PENANG WATER SUPPLY TOPICS

- **SPAN working delegation headed by its Chairman, Tuan Charles Santiago, visited 3 dams in Penang and the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant.**
- **Key topics discussed: WCP 2030, Sungai Muda river level incident, UMBA, SPRWTS, MDEP and Air Itam Dam response plan.**

PENANG, Friday, 19.5.2023: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has briefed the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) on 6 key topics concerning Penang.

This briefing and discussions were held when a SPAN delegation, headed by its Chairman, Tuan Charles Santiago, came to Penang for a 2-day working visit on 18.5.2023 and 19.5.2023. The delegation visited the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant, Air Itam Dam, Mengkuang Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.

The 6 topics raised by PBAPP to SPAN were:

1.	Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBAPP's plan to implement 8 key water supply projects at a total cost of RM1.185 billion to ensure water supply sufficiency until 2030.
2.	Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationales for the SPRWTS and the key reasons why the Penang State Government and PBAPP are seeking implementation by the Federal Government before 2030.
3.	14.5.2023 Sungai Muda water level incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronology of events and PBAPP's emergency responses to a mishap in Kedah that caused a water supply disruption for about 400,000 water consumers in Penang.
4.	Ulu Muda Basin Authority (UMBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of an independent agency to protect and professionally manage the Ulu Muda Basin (including Sungai Muda) for the common good of Perlis, Kedah and Penang.

5.	Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project (MDEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Penang State Government and PBAPP are seeking the urgent assistance of the Federal Government to complete the MDEP as soon as possible so that the Expanded Mengkuang Dam may function effectively and fully as a drought dam and emergency response dam, as well as a daily dam in the near future.
6.	Air Itam Dam Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PBAPP is finalising a plan to defend effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam that has been depleted since 1.1.2023, due to abnormally low rainfall and high water consumption.

Having provided data and recommendations to SPAN, PBAPP hopes that the national regulator will support and assist Penang by facilitating Federal-level solutions in time.

Penang is a small state with big water issues. We need help from the Federal Government to ensure that Penang has sufficient raw water and a stable water supply for all towards 2030 and beyond.

Thank You.

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