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Media Release

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4 ADDITIONAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WATER PROJECTS FOR PENANG

- 1. 440 MLD Lahar Yooi Pump House to enable faster refilling of the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD)**
- 2. 440 MLD Dual Purpose Pipeline (EMD to Sungai Dua Canal)**
- 3. Sungai Kerian Off-River Storage Scheme (ORSS)**
- 4. Sungai Muda ORSS**

PENANG, Thursday, 7.11.2024: The Federal Government is working with the Penang State Government and PBAPP on 4 major water supply projects for Penang.

Last month, State Executive Councillor YB Zairil Khir Johari led a Penang State Government and PBAPP delegation to attend a meeting chaired by the Director of the Water Supply Division (WSD) of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), Ir. Haji Sulaiman bin Kamisan, in Putrajaya.

The following projects were discussed in the meeting:

1. 440 million litres per day (MLD) Lahar Yooi Pump House

This pump house represents Phase 2C of the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project (MDEP). It will be built to pump an additional 440 MLD of raw water from Sungai Muda to refill the 86.4 billion litre Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) more efficiently during wet seasons.

The Lahar Yooi Pump House supports PBAPP's plan to convert the EMD from a "strategic drought reserve" to a "daily dam" (with the completion of the new 114 MLD Mengkuang Dam Water Treatment Plant in 2025).

Indirectly, it will also ensure that maximum EMD drawdowns of up to 1,040 MLD are possible and sustainable during emergency scenarios when a "Sungai Muda Incident" threatens water supply services in Penang.

According to the WSD, the federal project to build the Lahar Yooi Pump House has been approved. It will be funded by the remaining funds from the RM1.2 billion MDEP allocation.

2. 440 MLD Dual-Purpose Pipeline (EMD to Sungai Dua Canal)

The Penang State Government and PBAPP are seeking Federal assistance to lay a new 440 MLD dual-purpose pipeline from the EMD to the Sungai Dua Canal. This pipeline is needed to support the operations of the proposed Lahar Yooi Pump House.

On one hand, it will channel an additional 440 MLD of raw water to the dam during the wet seasons. On the other hand, it will deliver an additional 440 MLD of water from the EMD into the Sungai Dua Canal, for use in the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant during emergency scenarios.

In effect, the maximum drawdown of the EMD will be boosted from 600 MLD to 1,040 MLD when this pipeline is commissioned. With up to 1,040 MLD of water from the EMD in hand, PBAPP may effectively minimise the threat or impact of future “Sungai Muda Incidents” affecting water supply services in Penang.

The WSD has asked the Penang State Government and PBAPP to submit a “Notice of Change” (NOC) to expand the scope of Phase 2C (MDEP) to include this dual-purpose pipeline. If possible, remaining federal funds allocated for the MDEP will be used to lay this pipeline.

- 3. Sungai Kerian ORSS (Off-River Storage Scheme)**
- 4. Sungai Muda ORSS**

These 2 ORSS projects are essentially “mini-dam” projects proposed for development at or near the riverbanks of Sungai Muda in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU) and Sungai Kerian in Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS).

Excess raw water from a river may be stored in an ORSS. The “spare water” may be drawn down to support 24 - 48 hours of water supply services during droughts, mishaps or other emergency scenarios. Subsequently, the ORSS may be refilled with excess raw water from the river.

In summary, these 2 ORSS projects may be deemed as “additional insurance projects” to support continuous good water supply in SPU and SPS.

The WSD has asked the Penang State Government and PBAPP to apply for federal funding for the ORSS projects under the 13th Malaysia Plan (2026 – 2030).

In addition to the WCP 2030 and Perak-Penang Water Project

These 4 Federal projects are additional water supply projects that should be implemented in tandem with Penang's RM1.184 billion Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030) and the RM4.5 billion "Perak-Penang Water Project".

PBAPP will continue to implement the remaining 6 of the 8 WCP 2030 projects as scheduled while supporting the Federal Government's implementation of the "Perak-Penang Water Project" by 2030.

When implemented, these 4 additional Federal projects will help to ensure continuous good water supply in Penang on a 24/7/365 basis and relieve Penang's water-stress status during this age of climate change.

Accordingly, PBAPP would like to record its gratitude to the WSD, PETRA and the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) for their kind cooperation and support.

Thank You.

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