

6.10.2025

Media Release

DATO' IR. PATHMANATHAN K.

CEO, PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd.

RM4 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO UPGRADE WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOW-COST APARTMENTS IN PENANG

- **PBAPP presented a RM4 million cheque for the PRIHATIN programme, in support of its initiative to upgrade internal water reticulation systems in low-cost apartment compounds.**
- **PRIHATIN will be implemented by the Penang State Housing Board (LPNPP).**

PENANG, Monday, 6.10.2025: PBAPP has handed over a RM4 million cheque for the Infrastructure Maintenance Intervention Programme (PRIHATIN), as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) gesture in support of an initiative to improve water supply for residents of low-cost apartments.

Dato' Ir. Pathmanathan K. (CEO of PBAHB & PBAPPP) presented the cheque to Pn. Nadzifah bt. Abdul Rahim, Chief Legal and Enforcement Officer of LPNPP today. The Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow, witnessed the cheque handover at Komtar today.

PBAPP's RM4 million CSR contribution, which comprises RM2 million for 2024 and RM2 million for 2025, will be allocated to projects under the PRIHATIN programme.

The PRIHATIN programme is a joint initiative involving LPNPP, Penang Island City Council (MBPP), Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP) and PBAPP.

The scope of works under PRIHATIN covers various water infrastructure repairs, including the repair and replacement of existing tanks and pipes. New construction works may include the installation of suction tanks or the building of pump houses, subject to the outcome of technical inspections and the official approvals of the local authorities.

The project selection criteria and application process for the PRIHATIN programme were announced in a media conference by the Penang State EXCO for Infrastructure, Transport and Digital, YB Tuan Zairil Khir Johari, on 4 September 2025.

300 housing projects identified without suction tanks and water pumping systems

About 300 low-cost housing projects in Penang (mainly 5-storey apartments) were built without suction tanks and water pumping systems. Their rooftop water tanks are located 20m or higher above ground level.

Most of these projects were completed more than 15 years ago. At that time, Penang's water consumption was below 800 million litres per day (MLD). When necessary, PBAPP was able to pump water at high pressures to reach and refill the rooftop tanks of these low-cost housing projects.

In 2024, Penang's water consumption reached 870 MLD.

Under the PRIHATIN programme, about 20 low-cost housing schemes are expected to benefit. In Phase 1, five (5) housing schemes have been approved and will be followed by site visits by the local authorities.

In today's high water demand scenario, PBAPP is working to deliver treated water at a minimum pressure of 10mH (meter head) at all main ground-level meter points in Penang to comply with the KPI set by the National Water Services Commission (SPAN).

The 10mH pressure level is lower than the height of rooftop water tanks of 5-storey apartments (20m or higher). Therefore, the treated water pumped by PBAPP today may not reach the tanks directly.

This is why all high-rise residential and commercial projects are required to be equipped with suction tanks and sufficient pumping systems to pump water from ground level up to rooftop tanks.

Meanwhile, several rooftop water tanks in low-cost apartment compounds have been found to be leaking or not functioning properly. This means the rooftop tanks may not be refilled to full capacity at night when water demand is lower.

Some low-cost housing projects are also located at higher elevations or at end-of-line (EoL) pipe locations where water pressure is at its lowest.

As a result, residents of low-cost apartments are likely to experience intermittent water supply disruptions when water demand is high and water pressure is low and will take longer time to recover.

Helping those in need

YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow said the PBAPP Board of Directors approved the RM2 million CSR proposal presented by management on 16.4.2024, mainly on the basis of

providing assistance to those in need. The Board approved an additional allocation of RM2 million for 2025 on 24 February 2025. This form of assistance is expected to be sustained in the coming years, subject to assessed needs and requirements.

He said the majority of low-cost apartment residents belong to the B40 income group and most low-cost apartment projects in Penang do not have management corporations to manage and maintain building facilities efficiently.

“While PBAPP is addressing major challenges in upgrading Penang’s water supply infrastructure to meet growing water demand, it is also important to support the State Housing Board’s initiative to upgrade internal water reticulation systems in low-cost apartment compounds,” he said.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communication Section
Email : comms@pba.com.my