

3.2.2026  
Media Release

## **UNITED NATIONS-LINKED CEO AWARD FOR PENANG'S WATER SUPPLY COMPANY**

- **“Forward Faster Sustainability” CEO Award 2026 recognises Dato’ Ir. Pathmanathan K. for leading a company which integrates sustainability into its business strategy.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> recognition by the United Nations Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB).**

PENANG, Tuesday, 3.2.2026: PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd (PBAHB) have received a second award from the United Nations Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB), the local chapter of the largest international corporate sustainability initiative in the world.

The UNGCMYB “Forward Faster Sustainability” CEO Award 2026 recognises Dato’ Ir. Pathmanathan K., CEO of PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd, for leading a mid-tier company (RM20 million - RM500 million category) that has integrated sustainability into its business strategy.

PBAPP and PBAHB won the award based on the following initiatives:

1. Continuing expansion and diversification of water supply infrastructure in Penang under the RM2.1 billion Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030).
2. Implementation of the Zero Waste Water Recycling Project to continuously harvest “supernatant water” as an additional raw water resource in the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant; and recycle the plant’s water treatment residue as a raw material to make cement bricks.
3. Generation of about 200,000 kWh of solar power per month from a project at the Bukit Dumbar Reservoir and Pumping Station Complex.
4. Re-activation of the Pulau Aman pilot desalination project to explore the possibilities of deploying strategic public water supply desalination plants in Penang in the future.
5. A 30% reduction in internal water consumption at all PBAPP facilities in Penang.

All of the initiatives are aimed at sustaining good water supply services in a water-stressed state until Year 2030, in support of the State Government's "Penang2030" vision to make Penang a "family-focused, green and smart state that inspires the nation".

The "Forward Faster Sustainability" CEO award is the second United Nations-linked acknowledgment of Penang and the PBA Group of Companies in recent months.

On 25.11.2025, PBAHB was informed that it had been listed on UNGCMYB's inaugural ESG (environmental, social, governance) Select List for a "3-star recognition" in relation to its zero waste water recycling project at Sungai Dua; the setting and promotion of a 250 litres/capita/day (LCD) domestic consumption target for Penang; and the launching of a RM5 billion Islamic medium-term notes programme with the "AAA/Stable" sustainable rating.

Dato' Ir. Pathmanathan thanked the UNGCMYB for recognising PBAPP and PBAHB's unwavering drive towards sustainability in serving as Penang's water supply operator.

"In 2026, we are working to achieve the sustainability goals set for 2030. We are also planning towards 2040. UNGCMYB's acknowledgments is spurring us to think more, think bigger, and outside the box, because Penang is a water-stressed state," he said.

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**Dato' Ir. Pathmanathan K., CEO of PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd**

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**Dato' Ir. Pathmanathan K., CEO of PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd (centre), with the PBAPP team at the UNGCMYB "Forward Faster Sustainability" Awards 2026 event. © PBAPP 2026**