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Media Release

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PBAPP: “Futureproofing” Water Supply in Penang

- **6 remaining WCP 2030 projects to be completed by 2030**
- **Perak-Penang Water Project by 2032**
- **Potential strategic desalination projects in the 2030s**

PENANG, Tuesday, 22.9.2026: PBAPP is implementing its Penang Water Supply Roadmap (PWSR) now to ensure that it can supply sufficient water to support socioeconomic development in the 2030s.

In short, PBAPP is not planning to face a water crisis in the future. Instead, we are investing billions of ringgit now into projects that will reduce the risks of a future water shortage.

PWSR Rationales

Since 2022, Penang’s population reportedly increased by about 4.0% from 1.74 million people in 2022 to 1.81 million people in 2025.

However, Penang’s GDP contribution increased from RM112.1 billion in 2022 to RM130.3 billion in 2025. This is an increase of 16.2% in 4 years.

Looking ahead, Penang’s water consumption is projected to increase from 865 million litres per day (MLD) in 2025 to 1,162 MLD (or more) in 2032.

This projection is not “guesswork”. It is derived from data provided by multinational corporations, property developers and state government agencies who are undertaking various transformative projects in Penang.

When completed in 2032, all these projects will help to propel Penang’s economy to a new and higher level for the benefit of the people.

That said, like all other existing daily socioeconomic activities in Penang, the successful completion and launching of these major projects must be backed by sufficient water supply.

PWSR Milestones

Accordingly, PBAPP will mark 3 key water supply milestones in driving the PWSR:

1. Completion of the 6 Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030) projects to ensure water supply sufficiency until 2030:

Since 2023, PBAPP has completed two WCP 2030 projects at Bukit Panchor and Sungai Dua.

The remaining six WCP 2030 projects involve the development of 4 new water treatment plants (WTPs) in Seberang Perai to increase treated water production in Penang by 478 MLD; and the laying of two lengths of 1,800mm pipelines to pump more treated water from Seberang Perai to Penang Island.

2. Purchase of 300 – 500 MLD of treated water from Perak under the inter-state Perak-Penang Water Project (P-PWP) from 2032:

Since Penang is a small state with limited raw water resources, it is a rational move to buy water from a “water-rich” state like Perak. The P-PWP will be instrumental in supporting rapid growth in Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS) and Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT).

3. Introduction of strategic desalination projects to make Penang’s water supply system more “weather-proof” in the 2030s:

Desalination of seawater is a logical solution for an island state surrounded by sea. However, the costs of desalination are significantly higher than the costs of conventional treatment of freshwater from streams and rivers.

In November 2025, PBAPP revived its pilot desalination project on Pulau Aman. In the 2030s, PBAPP should deploy strategic desalination projects to reduce the risk of a potential water shortage due to low rainfall in this age of climate change.

Water Supply Security

Since its corporatisation in 1999, PBAPP has been quietly but steadily supporting the socioeconomic growth of Penang on a 24/7/365 basis.

We supply water continuously, in support the people’s lifestyles and livelihoods, as well as all business operations in this state.

Today, Penang's domestic water rate are the second lowest in Malaysia, at RM0.93 per m³ for the *first 35m³ per month. This is the 2nd lowest rate in Malaysia. The national average is RM1.12.

At the RM0.93 per m³ rate, about 82% of Penang households pay RM32.50 or less per month. That is significantly less than most electricity bills, monthly fuel costs and mobile device connectivity charges.

There are people who insist that PBAPP should charge less than RM0.93 per m³. And yet, whenever there is a water supply interruption, PBAPP's 24-hour Call Centre, FB page and WhatsApp chats will be flooded by complaints.

As in 2026, Penang's water supply system is not as safe and secure as it should be. The PWSR is a comprehensive and rational blueprint that will help Penang to achieve a higher level of water security in the 2030s.

PBAPP is working on it.

Thank You.

* 1m³ is equivalent to 1,000 litres. Therefore, 35m³ per month refers to 35,000 litres per month.

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