

8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

by YAB TUAN CHOW KON YEOW,  
Chief Minister of Penang.

### **MENGGUANG DAM: PENANG SEEKS MINISTRY'S HELP TO ENSURE SAFETY AND FUNCTIONALITY**

- **23 slope areas damaged by landslides.**
- **Mak Sulong Pumping Station not commissioned yet.**
- **Dam structural integrity cannot be ascertained until it is full.**

PENANG, Saturday, 8/9/2018: Penang is seeking the assistance of the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) to expedite works that will ensure the safety and functionality of the Mengkuang Dam Expansion Project (MDEP).

Following the 2018 changes in Federal Government administration, KATS has assumed the water supply responsibilities of the former Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA).

On 7/8/2018, State Secretary YB Dato' Seri Farizan bin Darus and PBAPP CEO Dato' Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa represented Penang in a meeting with KATS Minister YB Dr. Xavier Jayakumar in Kuala Lumpur.

On 4/9/2018, YB Dr. Xavier and a KATS delegation met with me in my Komtar office. The Minister also visited the Mengkuang Dam and Mak Sulong Pumping Station.

Penang has tabled the following issues to KATS:

- We would like to re-open the Mengkuang Dam to the public as a people-friendly recreational area. However, there are 23 landslide sites in the dam environment that have not been repaired.
- Raw water needs to be pumped up from Sungai Kulim to fill up the Mengkuang Dam. However, the Mak Sulong Pumping Station is not functional yet, and, as such, has not been commissioned.

- The Mengkuang Dam has been expanded to store up to 73.5 billion litres of water. However, the structural integrity of the dam cannot be ascertained until it is filled up to its maximum level of 55 meters.

The scope of the MDEP encompasses 3 phases of works, as shown in the following table:

Phases		Cost	Status
1	<b>Mengkuang Dam expansion</b> and associated works, to increase the maximum raw water storage capacity from 22 billion litres to 73.5 billion litres.	<b>RM607M</b>	Construction works completed on 10/4/2017. Defects liability period until 16/11/2019.
2A	<b>Upgrading of the Mak Sulong Pumping Station</b> and associated works to increase raw water pumping capacity (from 200 million litres per day, or MLD, to 400 MLD) from Sungai Kulim to help fill up the Mengkuang Dam.	<b>RM63.5M</b>	Construction works completed on 28/9/2017. However, this pumping station has not been tested and commissioned yet.
2B	<b>Laying of 6.85 km of 1.6-meter diameter mild steel pipelines from the Mak Sulong Pumping Station to the Sungai Dua Canal</b> to upgrade the delivery capacity from 300 MLD to 600 MLD.	<b>RM100M (estimate)</b>	Pending. During a meeting on 2/4/2018, the former KeTTHA agreed to undertake this phase. Projected completion: 2020.

It must be remembered that the MDEP is a Federal project funded by a Federal grant. The former KeTTHA had undertaken the MDEP in accordance to agreements signed to facilitate Penang's migration to the National Water Services Restructuring Initiative (NWSRI) in 2011.

However, only Phase 1 and Phase 2A have been completed. Since KATS has taken over from KeTTHA, KATS has agreed to commission Phase 2A and implement Phase 2B to “complete the MDEP”, as agreed upon during our meeting on 4/9/2018.

During wet seasons, we need the Phase 2A Mak Sulong Pumping Station to pump raw water from Sungai Kulim to fill up the dam. During dry seasons, we need the Phase 2B pipelines to supply up to 600 MLD of raw water to the Sungai Dua WTP.

### **HELP FROM KATS TO FULFILL 10 CONDITIONS**

Earlier on 7/8/2018, YB Dr. Xavier also agreed to follow up on the following 10 conditions, as agreed upon by the former KeTTHA on 2/4/2018:

1. KATS will allocate RM100 million to construct a new barrage at Rantau Panjang, Seberang Prai Utara.
2. KATS will allocate RM80 million to construct the 440 MLD Lahar Yooi Pumping Station under its “Rolling Plan 4” (Phase 2C).
3. KATS will complete the RM100 million raw water pipeline from the Mak Sulong Pumping Station to the Sungai Dua Canal (Phase 2B) by March 2020. The pipeline will be 6.85 km in length, with a diameter of 1.6 meters.
4. KATS will bear the raw water pumping costs at the Mak Sulong Pumping Station to fill up the Mengkuang Dam.
5. KATS will be responsible for the structural integrity of the expanded Mengkuang Dam until it is filled and tested at its maximum level of 55 meters. KATS will bear all costs of appointing a competent contractor to rectify defects, if any defects are detected.
6. KATS will hand over the expanded Mengkuang Dam project site and Mak Sulong Pumping Station to the Penang State Government.
7. KATS will coordinate, facilitate and mediate talks between the Penang and Perak State Governments on the proposed Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS), as agreed upon on 25/3/2015 and 13/1/2017.

8. KATS will repair 23 landslide locations in the dam site. The landslides occurred during stormy weather in September – November 2017.
9. KATS will rectify the grass cover on the dam berms.
10. KATS will conduct a 30-day trial run of the Mak Sulong Pumping Station by October 2018, before it is put into operation.

### **PENANG'S RATIONALE**

When Penang handed over the Mengkuang Dam to the former KeTTHA for the commencement of the MDEP in 2011, it was in good working condition. Now that the dam's maximum capacity has been upgraded from 22 billion litres to 73.5 billion litres, it should be handed back to Penang in a better working condition.

Having a larger Mengkuang Dam is not enough. We need the Mak Sulong Pumping Station to help fill up the dam during wet seasons. We need the 6.85km of new pipelines to deliver up to 600 MLD of raw water from the dam to the Sungai Dua WTP during dry seasons.

Penang needs a fully functional and safe MDEP to meet all the water supply needs of its people beyond 2020. At the same time, we look forward to re-opening a green, safe and people-friendly recreational area in Seberang Prai.

Thank You.