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PRESS STATEMENT

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WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN PENANG: MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF WATER SAVING DEVICES IN NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- **First state in Malaysia to require water saving devices (tap fittings, shower fittings, toilet cisterns and urinals), to be installed in all new projects.**
- **WSDs “automatically” reduce water consumption by between 14% and 87%**

PENANG, Tuesday, 30/1/2018: Penang is “walking the talk” by the being the first Malaysian state to approve a regulation requiring developers to install water saving devices (WSDs) in all new development projects.

Penang is the only state in Malaysia that has publicly adopted a “no water rationing” policy. The mandatory installation of WSDs reflects Penang’s firm commitment to this policy, for the benefit of its people and all businesses based here.

The Penang State Executive Council approved Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd’s (PBAPP’s) proposal for the mandatory installation of WSDs on 28/11/2017.

The next step is the necessary legal process for amendment and gazettment. Following the gazette, the Penang City Council (MBPP) and the Seberang Prai Municipal Council (MPSP) will be able to enforce the new regulations. PBAPP will assist in the implementation.

Water Saving Devices

WSDs are “water-friendly” devices that allow consumers to automatically save water without any changes to daily routines or habits. WSDs reduce and regulate water flow and, hence, water consumption with every use. WSDs include:

- Taps and shower heads which are equipped with flow regulators.
- Toilet cisterns with “dual flush” systems that enable “half flushes” (3 litres) and “full flushes” (6 litres).
- Water saving urinals with “timer” and/or “spring” triggers.

PBAPP has installed various types of WSDs (sold in Malaysia) in its buildings since 2012. Our findings indicate that WSDs can effectively reduce water consumption by between 14% and 87%:

Type of Fittings	BEFORE (litres per minute)	AFTER (litres per minute)	% Water Savings
Basin Tap	12 - 16	Self-shutting type: 2	83 - 87%
		Tip touch type: 6	50 - 63%
Bib Tap	12 - 15	5	58 - 67%
Shower Head	14 - 20	12	14 - 40%
Sink Tap	12 - 18	6	50 - 67%

WSDs also include washing machines and dish washers that are “water friendly”.

WSD installation has been acknowledged as one of the most effective water conservation measures worldwide. Countries such as Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the USA actively promote WSDs.

In Malaysia, the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) has introduced a “Water Efficient Product Labelling Scheme”.

Water Saving Impact

Penang's WSD regulation will have a huge impact on water conservation in a water-stressed state. Essentially, all new buildings will automatically become "water friendly" buildings.

These buildings will also be greener and will comply with the *Garis Panduan Perancangan Kejiranan Hijau 2012*, promoted by the *Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Semenanjung Malaysia* (JPBDSM) and the "Cleaner, Greener, Healthier and Safer Penang" policy.

During dry seasons, WSDs automatically regulate water consumption to ensure that Penang's water reserves may last until the rains arrive.

The mandatory installation of WSDs in all new properties will allow more households to conserve water with minimal effort. The "automated" nature of the WSDs will help to reduce per capita domestic consumption significantly in the long run.

Penang's per capita domestic consumption was 286 litres/capita/day (l/c/d) in 2016, as compared to the national average of 209 l/c/d. With population growth, this high level of domestic water consumption is not sustainable.

Penangites should bear in mind that we are highly dependent on only one major raw water resource – Sungai Muda. Meanwhile, Kedah is continuing to allow and license logging in the Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, the water catchment area for Sungai Muda.

The Federal Government has delayed the Sungai Perak Raw Water Transfer Scheme (SPRWTS) as a second raw water resource for Penang, and this increases our risk of a water shortage with each passing year.

With these considerations in mind, PBAPP has been promoting WSDs as part of its "water demand management" programme in Penang, alongside the implementation of the water conservation surcharge (WCS) and water education/awareness projects.

Finally, I would like to remind all Penang water consumers that saving water also means promoting a sustainable greener lifestyle and saving money from water bills.

To try out how a WSD can help you to save money, please visit the nearest PBAPP Customer Care Centre and pick up a free water saving kit. The kit contains “water saving thimbles” that can be fitted onto household taps.

Thank You.

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