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PRESS STATEMENT

by Dato' Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa,
Chief Executive Officer,
PBA Holdings Bhd (PBAHB) and
Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP)

at the MWA Northern Zone Promotion of "Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia Melalui Kaedah Pengiktirafan Pencapaian Terdahulu" (SKM-PPT) Programme.

WATER OPERATORS SHOULD FOCUS ON WORKERS' COMPETENCY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

- **Malaysia needs to develop a pool of competent water supply industry personnel now, to address challenges such as climate change, limited raw water resources, annual growth in water accounts and increasing water demand.**

PENANG, Monday, 30/7/2018: Water operators should focus on workers' competency training and certification as an essential investment, and not a secondary expense.

Since water is an essential element for daily life and socioeconomic activities, water supply is an essential public service. Nevertheless, water supply engineering is a specific engineering field that requires specific training, skills and knowledge.

As such, a responsible water operator must be willing to invest in recruiting, training and retaining competent personnel to perform the right tasks in the right manner, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For water supply operators, the margin for human error will always be low, while the social impact and economic costs of such an error will always be high. In this context, competency training and certification is a critical requirement for sustaining good water supply services.

Malaysia needs to develop a pool of competent water supply industry personnel now, to address challenges such as climate change, limited raw

water resources, annual growth in water accounts and increasing water demand. Moreover, the competency requirements for water industry workers have been clearly stipulated in Section 49(1) and Section 180(a)(iii) of the Water Services Industry Act 2006.

CERTIFYING EXPERIENCED AND SKILLED WATER INDUSTRY PERSONNEL THROUGH THE SKM-PPT PROGRAMME

PBAPP and the Penang Water Services Academy (PWSA) are pleased to serve as the northern zone host for the promotion of SKM-PPT programme for Malaysian water supply industry personnel.

The SKM-PPT programme, otherwise known as “Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia Melalui Kaedah Pengiktirafan Pencapaian Terdahulu”, is a competency certification programme that is being implemented by the Department of Skills Development (DSD), Ministry of Human Resource, Malaysia.

This programme allows experienced and skilled workers to obtain SKM-level certifications without having to undergo formal or full-time vocational training.

SKM-PPT certification is available to skilled workers who can fulfill all the requirements set out under the National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS). If an applicant’s competency level is evaluated to be 30% below the NOSS requirement, he or she must successfully complete training courses to achieve full competency status at an accredited SKM training centre.

DSD has appointed the Malaysian Water Association (MWA) to be the “Industry Lead Body”, or ILB, for the SKM-PPT programme in relation to the Malaysian water services industry.

SKM-PPT CERTIFICATION AT PWSA

Water operators who wish to certify their personnel through the SKM-PPT programme may seek assistance from PWSA, an accredited SKM training centre. To date, PWSA has helped 64 personnel to obtain their SKM-PPT certifications.

Established by the PBAHB Group of Companies in 2007, PWSA is registered with “Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad” (PMSB) and the Ministry of Finance. The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) has also certified us as an “Authorised Training Provider”.

In the past 11 years, PWSA has registered a total of 3,549 trainees. The academy has trained personnel from 11 Malaysian water operators, 4 water supply regulatory bodies and 2 government departments. We have also trained students from 4 vocational institutes, as well as overseas trainees representing water operators in Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam.

In 2017, PBA Resources Sdn Bhd (PBAR), the company that manages PWSA, signed a two-year collaboration agreement with HueWACO of Vietnam. Under the agreement, PBAR will serve as a consultant and training partner for HueWACO.

Last year, PBAR also renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Water Association (PERPAMSI) to promote and coordinate training for Indonesian water operators.

Thank You.

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