



20 March 2024

## MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today tabled the PAC Report on the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Program (PRAB) under the Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change (NRECC) [now known as the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA)].
2. The report was tabled after a PAC proceeding on **16 January 2024**. In the proceeding, PAC summoned the following witnesses:
  - i. **Dr. Ching Thoo a/l Kim**, Secretary-General of NRECC,
  - ii. **Major (Rtd) Dato' Ir. Dr. Haji Ahmad Anuar bin Othman**, Director-General, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (JPS); and
  - iii. **Dr. Fariza binti Yunus**, Senior Director of the Malaysian Meteorological Department.
3. Through the proceeding, PAC views that the RM129 million cost spent by the Government for PRAB Phase 1 was not justified due to the lack of accuracy in flood water level and prediction regarding when and where floods occur (referred to as HIT), which were not 100% accurate.
4. PAC also found that although the total amount of the Liquidated and Ascertained Damages (LAD) had been paid through contractor progress payment deductions, delays in the installation of the PRAB system should not have occurred as it has adversely affected the social and economic livelihood of those affected by the flood.

5. PAC was informed that the estimated allocation for the development of PRAB Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 was RM1.065 billion. Therefore, PAC wants the remaining development for PRAB Phase 2 and Phase 3 to be completed according to the time, cost and allocated funds, thereby realising the PRAB goal of providing effective and efficient flood forecasting and warning services to the public.
  
6. Based on the proceeding, PAC made 7 conclusions as follows:
  - i. Weaknesses in project management resulted in work delays in the Sungai Kelantan and Terengganu River Basins by 1,829 days. Meanwhile, work in the Sungai Pahang River Basin experienced a delay of 1,836 days.
  
  - ii. The upgrading of the 3G to 4G network under the National Digital Network Plan (JENDELA) caused data transmission issues from station to gateways to hang for more than three (3) consecutive months due to the contract for the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Program (PRAB) using the current network, namely 2G or 3G.
  
  - iii. NRECC through JPS has upgraded the Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) using the 4G communication coverage at 39 stations out of 118 stations to address the issues of data reception delay and data not being received.
  
  - iv. The original cost of PRAB Phase 2 of RM385 million increased to RM522 million following the addition of siren systems, web cameras

and the Communication, Educational and Public Awareness (CEPA) program.

- v. The weakness of PRAB contract that did not include a “penalty clause” resulted in preventative maintenance not being carried out.
- vi. Although PRAB Phase 1 incurred costs of RM129 million, it is still ineffective in terms of flood warning dissemination to the public as the medium used is not in line with the time distribution requiring faster information dissemination such as the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS).
- vii. The achievement of flood warning accuracy by area or “HIT” which is low at 5.6% does not meet the target as desired in PRAB which incurred costs of RM129 million.

7. In this regard, as improvement measures for PRAB, the PAC recommends 6 things to PETRA and JPS to be implemented, which are as follows:

- i. PETRA and JPS must ensure that the remaining 79 stations out of 118 stations undergo Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) conversion promptly to ensure PRAB functions properly.
- ii. PETRA and JPS must ensure that all contracts drafted take into account technological developments and the impact of implementation delays on projects.

- iii. PETRA and JPS must ensure that PRAB Phase 2 and 3 are completed according to time, cost, quality, and allocated funds.
  - iv. JPS must ensure that preventative maintenance is carried out according to schedule and contractors selected are qualified and competent to carry out PRAB maintenance besides ensuring that all equipment at stations is properly protected.
  - v. PETRA and JPS must enhance the Communication, Educational and Public Awareness (CEPA) program and improve early flood warning dissemination to increase community awareness levels.
  - vi. PETRA must ensure that PRAB Phase 2 and 3 implemented in Sabah and Sarawak use effective technology, capable of addressing issues experienced during Phase 1 and ensuring that supporting infrastructure is available.
8. PAC gives 2 months to PETRA and JPS before they are being called back for follow-up action proceedings to enable this Committee to know the actions taken on the recommendations submitted.
9. The public can read the report by visiting the PAC website at [www.parlimen.gov.my/pac](http://www.parlimen.gov.my/pac)

Thank you.

**Hon. Datuk Wira Mas Ermieyati binti Samsudin**  
**Chairman of PAC**