

# THE STRAITS TIMES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 | THE STRAITS TIMES

TOP OF THE NEWS | A5

## Treated water for food outlets on Pulau Ubin

New systems installed at three places, with a fourth to get it soon, after NEA warning on the quality of well water

Seow Bei Yi

Around a month after the authorities warned about the quality of well water on Pulau Ubin, a few food outlets there now have treated water that they can use for cooking.

Water treatment systems were installed at three outlets there last month. Water from two of the systems has been tested and deemed safe for the preparation of food and drinks for sale.

Treated water from a system installed at a third food establishment has yet to complete tests, while a fourth system will be set up at another shop soon.

The four shops are major providers of food and drinks out of a total of seven licensed retail food outlets on the island, which has 38 residents.

The initiative was developed and coordinated by the Siglap Citizens Consultative Committee and non-governmental organisation Corporate Citizen Foundation. National water agency PUB provided technical advice.

The system, which costs around \$7,000 each, is sponsored by engineering firm HSL Constructor.

Last December, the National Environment Agency (NEA) started requiring all food retail outlets on Pulau Ubin to boil well water continuously for at least a minute before using it to prepare food and drinks.

This was as testing samples of tap water had shown the presence of *E. coli* and total coliform bacteria, which could lead to symptoms simi-

lar to food poisoning, such as diarrhoea or nausea.

News of the deterioration in water quality caused business to drop by 20 to 30 per cent, said Madam Goh Sin Eng, 65, of eatery Sin Lam Huat, one of the food outlets that has installed the system.

She expects utility bills for the past month to be higher as the shop had to boil water used to wash raw food and utensils, but is hopeful business will improve with the treated water.

"People will have more confidence in the water here and will come," she said. The island sees up to 300,000 visitors annually.

The new system uses a seven-stage process.

A strainer removes large particles and a 50-micron membrane filter removes smaller particles. Then an activated carbon filter takes away contaminants and odour, and a 1-micron membrane filter takes out micro particles and organisms.

After which, a 0.01-micron ultra-filtration system removes bacteria such as *E. coli*, and light sterilisers make viruses and other micro organisms inactive.

Shop owners have agreed to take charge of the maintenance of these systems, including changing filters and flushing out sediments daily.

A tap will also be installed at each water treatment system so that residents on the island can use and benefit from the treated water.

Dr Maliki Osman, an MP for East Coast GRC, which Pulau Ubin is a part of, said: "Agencies are looking



Madam Koh Siew Hong (above), 64, using the water treatment system at her food outlet Season Life Seafood on Pulau Ubin yesterday. (Right) A water treatment system at the back of a licensed food retail outlet on the island. PHOTOS: LIANHE ZAOBAO

at bringing water treatment units to Pulau Ubin and for the residents to have better access to potable water... There are longer-term plans for that, but we wanted to see if we can help with interim solutions for businesses."

He said an interim solution has been provided for the food outlets there so that visitors to the island "will feel more confident".

byseow@sph.com.sg



## TODAY

mediacorp

MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2016

MCI (P) 021/06/2015

TODAY • MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2016

## 18 singapore

## TWO FOOD OPERATORS NOW USE TREATED WATER

## Treatment systems installed on Pulau Ubin to provide safe drinking water

*There are also plans to install water pipes to allow residents to retrieve potable water*

NG JING YNG  
jingyng@mediacorp.com.sg

**SINGAPORE** – With the installation of water treatment systems at food establishments at Pulau Ubin, two food operators now have safe treated water for the preparation of retail food and drinks.

Last month, the National Environment Agency (NEA) had required that water from the wells of Pulau Ubin — which receives around 300,000 visitors annually — be boiled for at least a minute before used for the preparation of retail food and drinks.

This is because latest tests samples of well water showed traces of E.coli bacteria and total coliform bacteria that could result in symptoms such as nausea, diarrhoea and fever.

But after the installation of water treatment systems at three of the seven licensed retail food establishments earlier this month, two of the three operations now have safe treated water. The third food retailer is currently undergoing testing for its treated water, while a fourth water treatment system will be installed at another food outlet.

Over the next two weeks, there are



also plans to install a water pipe from each of these four eateries to allow other Pulau Ubin residents to retrieve potable water, said Dr Maliki Osman, Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC, who spoke to reporters yesterday.

Dr Maliki, who is also Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs, said business owners have revealed that earnings have dropped by 20 to 30 per cent after news broke about water safety concerns. They also faced the additional utilities cost of

having to boil water frequently, such as for the washing of vegetables.

“This (water treatment system) is an interim (measure) to restore public confidence in the food prepared at these establishments,” he added.

The initiative to install water treatment systems on Pulau Ubin was mooted by the Siglap Citizens’ Consultative Committee and non-governmental organisation Corporate Citizen Foundation.

National water agency PUB provided technical advice on the instal-

lation of the water treatment systems at these retail food establishments.

HSL Construction sponsored the water treatment systems, costing around S\$7,000 each, while social enterprise WISE INC is coordinating the project pro bono. Moving forward, the food retailers will have to spend around S\$500 to S\$600 every year to maintain the system.

The seven-step water treatment system starts with a strainer that removes large particles, and ends with a UV light steriliser to inactivate viruses and other microorganisms. Maintenance includes daily flushing for 15 minutes every evening to remove dirty particles, and cleaning the filters every week.

Dr Maliki said the long-term plan is to bring in water treatment units for the island’s inhabitants, while also “striking a balance between the modern facilities (and) to keep (the island) as rustic as possible”.

Food retailers interviewed recounted the hassle of boiling water frequently and storing large amounts of it to keep their businesses going.

Ms Goh Sin Eng, 65, who owns Sim Lam Huat at 20 Pulau Ubin, said it remains to be seen if the additional utility cost from boiling water exceeds the yearly maintenance fee of the water treatment system. But she added: “It is definitely more fuss-free now ... it is also easy to maintain just by switching on the flush every day.”

Drinks and provision shop assistant Chew York Kuan, 53, said that business takings had fallen sharply. “People don’t even want to buy our bottled water as they feared it might be contaminated ... hopefully with this news (of safe treated water), business will go back to normal soon,” she said.

**Pulau Ubin resident Koh Siew Hong with the water treatment system. Food retailers will have to spend around S\$500 to S\$600 every year to maintain the system.**

PHOTO: JASON QUAH



南洋 ○ 星洲

**“星洲三杰”故事  
 传回孙中山故居**  
 7 新加坡

**超市自助付款  
 让小偷有机可乘**  
 5 新加坡

**大马士革与尼日利亚连环爆  
 至少120人死** 18 国际

头奖 7934 万字票中奖号码 刊第21页

# 乌敏岛装净化系统 餐馆居民共享卫生食水

乌敏岛的井水去年12月被发现含有大肠杆菌等，水质恶化的消息，致使岛上生意下降了两三成。为了向岛上零售食肆提供援助，实乞纳公民咨询委员会等机构合作为乌敏岛免费引入净水系统，所生产的水能直接使用，无须煮沸。

王纬温 报道  
 edwinong@sph.com.sg

乌敏岛上的三个餐饮店家有净水供应了，它们所装置三个净水系统，也将惠及岛上居民，让大家都有干净水供，以解决岛上井水水质恶化的困境。第四个净水系统也很快会装上。

乌敏岛的井水去年12月被发现含有大肠杆菌（E. coli）及总大肠菌群（total coliform）。井水水质恶化的消息大大影响岛上生意，受访餐饮业者透露，过去一个月的生意下降了两三成。

周德成杂货店员工周钰珩（53岁）昨早受访时说，自消息公布后，很多访客都从本岛携带瓶装水到岛上，不敢向她买饮料。

为了向岛上的零售食肆提供援助，实乞纳公民咨询委员会与非政府组织企业公民基金会及社会企业Wise INC等合作，在过去的两三周为乌敏岛免费引入净水系统，所生产的水能直接使用，无须煮沸。

国家环境局上个月规定岛上零售食肆须持续煮沸井水至少一分钟，才可用来准备出售的食物或饮料。业者也可使用瓶装水或来自本岛公用事业局的水源。

净水系统由本地科技公司Golden Season研发，每台价格约



孟理齐（左四）昨早视察了乌敏岛上的净水系统，岛上居民也可以到此免费取水。（叶振忠摄）

7000元，以七个步骤净化井水，功能包括薄膜过滤、碳过滤及两道紫外线杀菌等。该系统已推出超过五年，曾在多项国外人道救援行动中派上用场。

净水系统费用由前年主导成立企业公民基金会的本地海事工程公司兴隆建筑承担。

乌敏岛上共有七家有执照的餐饮场所，其中靠近码头的三家：海味活海鲜、新南发及瓊联园率先各装置了一套净水系统。前两家的系统已由公用事业局及环境局测试，

安全性获得认证，第三个系统则还在测试中。

国防部兼外交部高级政务部长、负责乌敏岛事务的东海岸集选区议员孟理齐博士昨早视察净水系统，还试喝了几口。他受访时说：“这项计划是民众、公共部门及私人企业三方共同合作所取得的成果。”

他也说：“系统有助于帮助岛上业者及居民降低把井水煮沸的电费及煤气费。”

第四个净水系统预计在下来两

三周内，安装于一家马来餐饮档口。这四个净水系统将各提供一个水龙头，让岛上居民免费取水。

孟理齐透露，乌敏岛每年吸引约30万名访客，岛上靠近码头则有约20户人家。这些居民及访客能直接受益于净水系统。

另外，孟理齐强调，环境局将继续定期对系统进行测试，以确保水质达标。他也说，该系统仅作为临时性解决方法，政府目前探讨安装长远适用于乌敏岛的在地污水处理装置。

净水系统接下来每年的维修费约五六百元，包括更换部件。这笔费用将由以上餐饮业者自行承担。

业者每天须将系统上其中两个过滤器间的一个水喉打开15分钟，通过反冲洗排出系统内的沉淀物及颗粒等。

海味活海鲜业者许秀风（64岁）相信，装上净水系统能赢回食客的信心。她也认为，与其他岛民免费分享干净水是甘榜精神的体现，自己不介意支付维修费。

与妹妹吴月来（60岁）一同经营新南发的吴承英（66岁）则说，为了确保水源干净，每天为系统进行反冲洗并不麻烦。之前就不时有居民或在岛上露营的学生上门讨水，她也乐意提供，因此不介意分享由系统过滤的水源。

在岛上住了60多年的居民邹闹英（80岁）指出，净水系统能让居民直取干净可饮用水，的确为居民提供便利。



**SISTEM RAWATAN AIR:** Dr Maliki (*dua dari kiri*) diberikan taklimat mengenai sistem rawatan air daripada Pengarah Eksekutif Wise Inc, Encik Harry Huo (*kanan*).  
— Foto TAUFIK A. KADER

## Sistem rawat air sementara dipasang di Ubin bagi pastikan bekalan air bersih

► **HAKIM YUSOF**  
[hakimy@sph.com.sg](mailto:hakimy@sph.com.sg)

AGENSI-AGENSI pemerintah sedang berusaha membawa unit rawatan air yang lebih lengkap ke Pulau Ubin tidak lama lagi demi memastikan penduduk dan peniaga di situ mendapat bekalan air yang bersih.

Sementara menunggu pemasangan sistem air bersih itu, satu sistem rawatan air sementara telah dipasang di tiga daripada tujuh kedai makanan di pulau tersebut.

Ini supaya peniaga makanan dan minuman di pulau berkenaan tidak lagi perlu memasak air bagi kegunaan air mentah daripada perigi atau paip.

Ini dinyatakan Menteri Negara Kanan (Pertahanan merangkap Ehwal Luar), Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman, semasa melawat pulau itu semalam.

“Dalam jangka panjang, kami perlu melihat perancangan lebih lama bagi Ubin. Kami sudah mempunyai jawatankuasa untuk bekerja bersama-sama dengan beberapa agensi bagi melihat bagaimana kami boleh terus membantu pulau ini,” kata Dr Maliki.

Dua daripada tiga sistem penapis sementara itu telah pun diuji dan didapati selamat untuk digunakan bagi persiapan makanan dan minuman yang dijual peniaga.

Namun, ujian masih dijalankan bagi sistem ketiga yang dipasang di sebuah kedai makanan.

Disember lalu, Agensi Sekitaran Kebangsaan (NEA) telah mengarahkan semua peniaga berlesen di Pulau Ubin agar memasak air daripa-

da perigi selama seminit sebelum digunakan bagi persiapan makanan dan minuman mereka kerana mutu air di situ semakin merosot.

Kajian juga mendapati kehadiran bakteria *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) dan coliform.

Ini menjejaskan perniagaan di pulau itu sehingga peniaga makanan mengalami kerugian sekitar 20 hingga 30 peratus, kata beberapa peniaga makanan di situ.

Pulau Ubin mempunyai tujuh kedai makanan berlesen.

Namun, peniaga di sana percaya bahawa sistem rawatan air terbaru itu akan dapat membantu memulihkan semula keyakinan pelanggan.

Sistem bernilai sekitar \$7,000 itu telah dibina oleh syarikat inovasi Wise Inc dan ia beroperasi melalui tujuh peringkat.

Sebuah penapis akan menapis zarah yang besar manakala penapis membran 50-mikron pula akan menapis zarah yang lebih kecil.

Penapis karbon kemudian akan menghapuskan bahan-bahan pencemaran dan bau.

Satu lagi penapis akan menapis zahar mikro dan organisme.

Akhirnya, sistem penapis-ultra 0.01 mikron akan menapis bakteria seperti E.coli.

Satu cahaya pensteril juga akan digunakan supaya virus dan organisma mikro yang lain tidak aktif.

Sistem yang disifatkan Dr Maliki sebagai “penyelesaian sementara” itu telah dibangunkan dan diselenggarakan oleh Jawatankuasa Perundingan Rakyat (CCC) Siglap, Yayasan Warga Korporat (CCF), badan bukan pemerintah (NGO) dan disokong pelbagai agensi pemerintah.

 Latest News refreshed just now




- 12:41 [2,100 first-year NUS students begin compulsory life skills programme](#)
- 12:00 [New feeder bus service available in Yishun from Feb 14](#)
- 10:46 [Kranji Marshes, Singapore's largest freshwater marshland, now open to visitors](#)
- 08:35 [Golf: South Korea's Song beats Spieth to Singapore Open title](#)

- 07:22 [Singapore Catholic authority warns against fake preachers](#)
- 07:14 [Empty offices and falling rents spell further gloom for landlords](#)
- 06:53 [Politicians must go beyond petty, partisan point-scoring: Leon Perera](#)
- 00:06 [Young athletes excel at their studies and their sport](#)
- 31 Jan [More than 900 displaced individuals, families identified between 2013-2015: MSF](#)
- 31 Jan [Football: Former Singapore player Duric launches autobiography](#)






[VIEW ALL SINGAPORE STORIES](#)

- [Toyota says halting domestic assembly for a week on parts shortage](#)
- [Golf: South Korea's Song beats Spieth to Singapore Open title](#)
- [Toyota: Japan production to stop for week due to steel shortage](#)
- [Football: AC Milan stun Inter Milan 3-0 in derby thriller](#)
- [Empty offices and falling rents spell further gloom for landlords](#)
- [Singapore Catholic authority warns against fake preachers](#)
- ['No deal yet' in Brexit talks with Cameron: EU's Tusk](#)
- [Train on the NEL decked out for Chinese New Year](#)
- [Politicians must go beyond petty, partisan point-scoring: Leon Perera](#)
- [Top French-Swiss chef found dead in apparent suicide](#)

MORE SINGAPORE NEWS

-  [2,100 first-year NUS students begin compulsory life skills programme](#)  
1 hour ago
-  [New feeder bus service available in Yishun from Feb 14](#)  
2 hours ago
-  [Kranji Marshes, Singapore's largest freshwater marshland, now open to visitors](#)  
3 hours ago

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

-  [2,100 first-year NUS students begin compulsory life skills programme](#)
-  [Empty offices and falling rents spell further gloom for landlords](#)
-  [New feeder bus service available in Yishun from Feb 14](#)
-  [Singapore Catholic authority warns against fake preachers](#)
-  [China police arrest 21 over US\\$7.6b online financial scam](#)

SINGAPORE

## Water treatment systems installed at Ubin food stalls

The systems were installed as an interim measure to address concerns about the quality of raw well water on the island.

By Hetty Musfirah Abdul Khamid, Channel NewsAsia  
Posted 31 Jan 2016 14:45



[f](#)
[t](#)
[in](#)
[Email](#)
[More](#)

SINGAPORE: Three of the seven licensed food stalls at Pulau Ubin will no longer have to boil well water before using it to cook, after water treatment systems were installed at their premises.

The systems, which costs about S\$7,000 each and were sponsored by construction firm HSL Constructor, were installed at the three stalls – Cheong Lian Yuen, Sim Lim Huat and Season Live Seafood – as an interim measure to address concerns about the quality of raw well water on the island.

In December last year, NEA issued a notice to all licensed retail food establishments on Pulau Ubin to boil well water for at least a minute before using it to prepare food and drinks for sale. Alternatively, they are required to use bottled water or water from the mainland.

The move came about after testing of samples of tap water drawn from wells showed the presence E. Coli bacteria and total coliform bacteria.

Since the systems were installed, the treated water have been found to be free of the contaminants, NEA said.

The initiative to install the water treatment systems was coordinated by the Siglap Citizens' Consultative Committee and the NGO - Corporate Citizen Foundation, with support from government agencies.

The aim is to install it in four out of seven food establishments on the island and allow residents to tap on it eventually. Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman said there are plans to install a fourth water treatment system at another food stall in the coming weeks.

"We pay attention to the first four, because they are the major providers of food and water," he said. "For the moment, we have already installed three and we are intending to install one more at another food establishment.

So we will have finally four systems. And for each of the system we will provide one additional tap for the others in the neighbourhood to be able

to tap on. What we are saying here is that we have provided an interim solution to the food establishments - so that the visitors who come to Pulau Ubin, whether they want to consume food or drinks at the establishment that we have provided this facility, will feel more confident."

He said the food stalls have seen business dropping by about 20 to 30 per cent, and he hopes the measure will restore public confidence.

The water treatment systems are being sponsored by a construction company - HSL Constructor. Each system costs about S\$7,000. The stalls have agreed to maintain the system regularly to ensure it continues to perform as designed. This includes changing the filters every six months. Maintenance costs are expected to range between S\$500 and S\$600 annually.

Retailers say they don't mind bearing the costs.

"This system will help restore our business," said Koh Siew Hong, who runs a seafood restaurant on the island. "I find it okay to pay S\$500 or S\$600 a year because residents here will benefit. I have confidence in this system."

Dr Maliki added that the Government is looking at longer-term solutions to provide residents with better access to potable water. Taps will also be set up to allow other residents on the island to have access to the treated water. The treated water however, will not be accessible from taps in public restrooms.

- CNA/cy



#### MORE STORIES FOR YOU



CDC expected to declare end to Chipotle's E.coli outbreak as soon as Monday: WSJ



Kranji Marshes, Singapore's largest freshwater marshland, now open to visitors



Formal treatment facility needed at Pulau Ubin: First aiders



Pulau Ubin visitors to get safety, security tips

◀ HOME ◀ SINGAPORE

◀ 2,000 households to take part in energy-saving challenge

Hongbao, vouchers for needy elderly in Ang Mo Kio to ... ▶

#### YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

