

16th March 2016

PRESS STATEMENT

by Dato' Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa,

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STAY COOL AND SAVE WATER: PENANG NOT IN THE DANGER ZONE

PENANG, Wednesday, 16/3/2016: There has been very little rainfall in Penang in the last 30 days and daytime temperatures have soared to 35°C. However, there is no immediate danger of a water crisis or water rationing here yet.

Since the 4th quarter 2015, Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has been implementing programmes to avoid rationing in this 2016 “Super El Niño” season. Our key initiatives include:

- Ensuring that the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam were as high as possible by the end of last year. As at 1st January 2016, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam were 89.3% and 84.2% respectively.
- Optimising Penang’s dam reserves by drawing down as little water as possible from the dams everyday, so that Penang has more than enough dam storage to outlast this hot and dry season.
- Increasing extraction of water from Sungai Muda for treatment at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (Sungai Dua WTP).
- Increasing the output of the Sungai Dua WTP to produce more treated water daily. Since 2015, this plant has been producing about 900 million litres of treated water per day to meet Penang’s daily water needs.

- Pumping water from the Sungai Dua WTP at higher pressures to reach all areas on the mainland, and to the South-West district of Penang Island.
- Expediting repair works for pipe bursts that may be caused by higher pumping pressures.
- Monitoring the levels of Sungai Muda, our primary source of raw water, 24/7. If there is any shortfall, there is a standing agreement that the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) will ask Kedah to release water into Sungai Muda as required by Penang because of the temporary decommissioning of the Mengkuang Dam to facilitate the RM1.2 billion upgrading works by KeTTHA.

All of these initiatives show that PBAPP has been proactive in planning ahead to avoid rationing, by leveraging on the full capabilities of Penang's existing water infrastructure.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

As a result:

1. Penang is not in any immediate danger of a water crisis or water rationing.
2. The effective capacities of our dams should be sufficient to last until the rains arrive in April 2016.

The Air Itam Dam's effective capacity stands at 75.7%. This dam has sufficient water to last 74 days of water supply without rain.

The Teluk Bahang Dam's effective capacity is at 72.3%, and has sufficient water to last 220 days without rain.

The level of Sungai Muda is at 2.41 metres. While the level has dropped, PBAPP is still able to extract around 1 billion litres per day from this river daily for treatment at the Sungai Dua WTP.

3. PBAPP will be able to provide continuous good water supply throughout the state until the April showers arrive.

STAY CALM AND SAVE WATER

In summary, Penang is not in the danger zone.

However, PBAPP would like to urge all Penangites and Penang-based businesses to stay calm, save water and use water wisely.

As such, PBAPP would like to advise all water consumers in Penang to do two basic and simple things with immediate effect:

- Avoid using a hose as far as possible to carry out cleaning activities. Hosing wastes water.
- Reduce the frequency of cleaning vehicles. Avoid using a hose at all costs.

For more water saving tips, please visit www.pba.com.my

Thank You.

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