

Race to refill dam before dry season comes

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The water level at Teluk Bahang Dam on Wednesday —Bernama

TAPPING three water catchments areas to refill Teluk Bahang Dam has seen a 19.5% increase in its stored water.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said they were now tapping the third water catchment area to refill the dam with as much water as possible during the year-end wet season.



Jaseni: We target to reach 45% capacity by Dec 31. This is in preparation for the dry season.

“On Oct 3, we commissioned the Batu Ferringhi water catchment area to Teluk Bahang Raw Water Transfer Scheme.

“Since then, excess raw water from the hills in Batu Ferringhi about 3.5km away is being channelled into the dam.

“When there is heavy rainfall, excess raw water from four intakes in the Batu Ferringhi water catchment area is channelled by gravity towards the dam via an existing tunnel.

“Under normal conditions, the raw water from these four intakes is treated at the Batu Ferringhi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Guillemard WTP.

“This means that Teluk Bahang Dam is now being refilled with raw water from three water catchment areas.

“The other two areas are the Teluk Bahang and Sungai Pinang catchment areas, ” he said in a statement on Wednesday.

As of Wednesday, Teluk Bahang Dam was 35.5% full, compared with just 16% on on Sept 5.

“The effective capacity of the dam is still low, due to abnormally low rainfall on Penang island between September last year and this September.

“The average effective capacity of the dam in the past three years (2017 to 2019) was 69% on Nov 4 each year, compared with 35.5% now.

“We target to reach 45% capacity by Dec 31.

“This is in preparation for the dry season which is expected to commence next January, ” he said.

Jaseni said despite experiencing a number of rainy days recently, they are unsure if there will be enough natural rainfall to push the effective capacity of the dam to 45% in time.

He said since its commissioning in 1999, the dam had played a leading role in sustaining good water supply in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and areas around Tanjung Bungah.

On a separate note, there will be water disruption for eight hours in certain areas in Jalan Perda Utama on mainland Penang from 10pm tomorrow to 6am on Sunday.

Jaseni said 3,700 water accounts would be affected as final pipe connection work would be carried out to install a 600mm diameter butterfly valve at Jalan Perda Utama in Seberang Prai.

“To facilitate the physical work, we must isolate a section of the existing 600mm pipeline.

“Consumers in the following areas are advised to store sufficient water to use for eight hours.

“The places affected by the water cut are Permata Apartments, Mutiara Condominium, Bandar Perda Utama, Bandar Perda Selatan and Gemilang Perdana business areas, Taman Camelia, Taman Perda Barat, Taman Perda Timur, Jalan Perda Utama, the police quarters as well as the Fire and Rescue Department quarters, ” said Jaseni.