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Penang seeks cloud seeding assistance from Nadma



Penang has sought the urgent assistance from the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) for cloud seeding operations to be carried out over dam water catchment areas in Penang. - BERNAMA pic

GEORGE TOWN: Penang has sought the urgent assistance from the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) for cloud seeding operations to be carried out over dam water catchment areas in Penang.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer K. Pathmanathan said, in a discussion on March 29 and an official letter dated March 30, the State Secretary's Office had informed the Operations Implementation Division of Nadma that due to climate change, low rainfall was recorded in the water catchment areas of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam (on Penang island).

He added that this had caused the effective capacities of the dams to drop significantly.

As of today, the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam was 49.5 per cent while the Teluk Bahang Dam, 50.7 per cent.



The Penang government has approved a RM400,000 allocation for the implementation of cloud seeding operations over the water catchment areas of the two dams. - Courtesy pic

"The effective capacities of these two dams have been projected to drop further, towards critical levels, if the current dry season extends to August.

"The Penang government has approved a RM400,000 allocation for the implementation of cloud seeding operations over the water catchment areas of the two dams.

"The State Secretary's Office has referred us to the Meteorological Department on the latest status of qualified companies that may carry out cloud seeding operations. However, there are no companies that can meet the criteria and conditions set by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM).

"As such, the Penang government has no choice but to seek the kind assistance of Nadma to intervene and facilitate the implementation of cloud seeding operations as soon as possible," he said today.

Pathmanathan hoped that Nadma would prioritise the fulfillment of Penang's request because cloud seeding operations were needed as soon as possible to induce rainfall that would refill the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.

"Penang must avoid a potential water supply crisis that may cause undue suffering for 1.74 million people and disrupt all the socioeconomic activities that had contributed RM99 billion to the national GDP in 2021," he added.

On Tuesday, PBAPP issued a second water alert after two key dams on Penang island dropped to about 50 per cent levels.

PBAPP also sought the cooperation of all Penang domestic water consumers (households) to use water wisely.