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## PENANG ACTIVATES CRISIS PLAN AFTER 7,400 HOMES HIT BY WATER ISSUES

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### PETALING JAYA:

The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) has activated its crisis management plan with low rainfall leaving 7,400 households on the island with water supply issues.

PBAPP CEO K Pathmanathan said the “abnormally low rainfall” affected water catchments and resulted in a lower supply of water to George Town, Air Itam, Thean Teik Highway, Tanjung Bungah, Mount Erskine, Balik Pulau, Pulau Betong and Bayan Lepas.

Pathmanathan said PBAPP would usually address this by diverting water from other treatment plants to the affected areas, but cannot do so this time because of low capacities in dams and the declining Sungai Muda water level.

As of yesterday, he said, the Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams only had an effective capacity of 42.3% and 32.2%, respectively.

“September usually marks the beginning of a rainy season in Penang and the northern region. Accordingly, PBAPP is implementing Phase 1 of its crisis management plan to ensure sufficient water supply until September,” he said in a statement.

Pathmanathan said PBAPP will optimise water production at the Batu Ferringhi and Guillemard water treatment plants to address shortages in other areas, and step up production at the Air Itam plant.

Water tankers and static water tanks will also be deployed to the affected areas, especially during high-demand periods, while PBAPP will request the National Disaster Management Agency carry out cloud seeding.

The water company will also optimise the refilling of three reservoirs at Bukit Dumbar, Bukit Gedung and Teluk Kumbar to ensure sufficient supply in industrial areas, particularly on working days when demand is higher.

“The present water supply scenario is causing some temporary water supply issues in Penang. The implementation of this crisis management plan may result in some additional inconveniences.

“PBAPP seeks the understanding, patience and support of Penang water consumers until the rainy season arrives in September. We apologise for all inconveniences caused but we have to take action to avoid a water crisis in Penang,” he said.