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## Penang water authority warns against illegal fishing in state's dams



GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) has issued a stern reminder that fishing is strictly prohibited in all of the state's dams and water catchment areas.

The warning follows evidence of illegal fishing discovered at the Bukit Panchor dam in Seberang Prai Selatan on Tuesday.

While no individuals have been identified or detained so far, PBAPP has since tightened security and increased patrols around the area.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said the dam, which supplies treated water to nearby communities through the 21 million-litre-per-day Bukit Panchor Water Treatment Plant, is located in a restricted zone and not open to the public.

"Any person caught fishing illegally or trespassing in restricted water supply areas will be detained by PBAPP's Polis Bantuan and handed over to the police for further action," he said today.

Under the Water Supply (Catchment Area) Order 2009 and the Penang Water Supply Enactment 2004, fishing and other non-permitted activities are banned in all 62.9 km<sup>2</sup> of Penang's designated water catchment areas.

These include dam water surfaces, canals and intakes.

Pathmanathan explained that the "no fishing" rule was crucial to prevent pollution and maintain the quality of raw water used for treatment.

"It also protects public safety, as dam waters can be deep, with depths of up to 48 metres at the Teluk Bahang dam and 7.32 metres at the Bukit Panchor dam," he added.

PBAPP encouraged visitors to Penang's open dam areas — such as Air Itam dam, Teluk Bahang dam and the Expanded Mengkuang dam — to act responsibly and report any suspicious or dangerous activities.

Members of the public are urged to notify PBAPP Polis Bantuan personnel at nearby security posts if they observe illegal fishing, swimming, or other prohibited acts near dam areas.

Photos or videos of such incidents can also be shared via mobile devices to assist enforcement.

"Let us keep Penang's dams functional, open and safe," Pathmanathan said.