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Penang records lowest domestic water usage in 24 years



GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) recorded the lowest per capita domestic water consumption in the state in 24 years in 2024.

Penangites consumed 261 litres/capita/day (LCD) of treated water compared with 284 LCD in 2023.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said today this represented a 23 LCD or 8.1 per cent drop year-on-year.

"261 LCD is the lowest figure for Penang since 2000 (255 LCD).

"However, the population of Penang was 1.3 million people in 2000 as compared with 1.8 million people in 2024.

"So overall domestic water consumption has increased by 39.8 per cent from about 123 million m³ in 2000 to 172 million m³ in 2024.

"Nevertheless, the 261 LCD figure represents a positive step in domestic water conservation.

"In 10 years from 2014 to 2023, domestic water consumption in Penang had hovered between 276 LCD and 308 LCD.

"In comparison, the national average was 237 LCD in 2022, while Singapore reported 141 LCD for 2023."

During Penang's World Water Day 2024 commemoration, Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow and PBAPP appealed to Penang domestic consumers to consumption by 10 per cent, from 284 LCD to 256 LCD.

Pathmanathan said although Penang did not hit the target, the state did achieve a 261 LCD, which was 1.9 per cent short of the mark.

"PBAPP thanks Penangites for conserving water at home in 2024, which helps to reduce the pressure on water supply infrastructure."

He said PBAPP would set and announce a new per capita domestic consumption target for 2025.

"After all, if the national average for Malaysia is 237 LCD and Singaporeans can make do with 141 LCD, there is no reason why Penangites cannot further reduce their water consumption.

"Up to t Jan 20, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are 78.3 per cent and 60.1 per cent respectively.

"Although international weather forecasters are predicting that 2025 will be a neutral El Niño southern oscillation, or mild La Niña year, our water supply status is not safe until these dams are refilled by rainfall to higher capacities.

"Continue to use water wisely during the Chinese New Year period."