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PRESS STATEMENT

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PBAPP TAPS THIRD WATER CATCHMENT AREA TO REFILL TELUK BAHANG DAM

- **Water from the Batu Ferringhi Water Catchment Area is also being used to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 4.11.2020: Rainwater from a third water catchment area is being used to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam with as much water as possible during this year-end wet season.

On 3.10.2020, Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd commissioned the “Batu Ferringhi Catchment to Teluk Bahang Raw Water Transfer Scheme”. Since then, excess raw water from the Batu Ferringhi Water Catchment Area, located in the hills about 3.5km away, is being channelled to the dam.

Whenever there is heavy rainfall, excess raw water from 4 intakes in the Batu Ferringhi Water Catchment Area is channelled by gravity flow towards the dam, via an existing tunnel.

Under normal conditions, the raw water from these 4 intakes is used primarily for treated water production at the Batu Ferringhi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Guillemard WTP.

This means that the Teluk Bahang Dam is now being refilled with raw water from 3 water catchment areas:

- Teluk Bahang Water Catchment Area
- Sungai Pinang Water Catchment Area (since 10.9.2020)
- Batu Ferringhi Water Catchment Area (since 3.10.2020)

The potential yield from the Sungai Pinang Water Catchment area is 10 MLD (million litres per day), while the potential yield from the Batu Ferringhi Water Catchment Area is 7.5 MLD.

The following table shows the positive impact of tapping 3 water catchment to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam during this wet season:

Date	Water Catchment Areas	Teluk Bahang Dam Effective Capacity
5.9.2020	Teluk Bahang	16.0% (lowest in 2020)
10.10.2020	Teluk Bahang + Sungai Pinang	25.3%
3.11.2020	Teluk Bahang + Sungai Pinang + Batu Ferringhi	35.5%

In summary, the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam has increased by 19.5%, from 16.0% on 5.9.2020 to 35.5% on 3.11.2020.

Nevertheless, the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is still abnormally low, due to abnormally low rainfall on Penang Island in the period September 2019 – September 2020.

The average effective capacity for the Teluk Bahang Dam in the preceding 3 years (2017, 2018 and 2019) was 69.0% on the 3rd of November, as compared to 35.5% in 2020.

PBAPP is targeting to achieve an effective capacity of 45.0% for the Teluk Bahang Dam by 31.12.2020, in preparation for the next dry season in Penang, which is expected to commence from January 2021.

Please note that on 1.1.2020, the dam's effective capacity was 41.8%. It was with this level of effective capacity that we managed to weather through the dry season, from January to August 2020.

Seeking to maximise rainfall to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam

The tapping of a third water catchment area to help refill the Teluk Bahang dam reflects PBAPP's commitment to "defend" the dam storage capacity, and thereby ensure continuous good water supply services for about 38,000 water accounts in the Northern tourism belt areas of Penang Island.

Since its commissioning in 1999, this dam has played a leading role in sustaining good water supply in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and areas around Tanjung Bungah.

Although we have experienced a number of rainy days recently, we do not know if there will be enough natural rainfall to push the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam to the “safe level” of 45% effective capacity by 31.12.2020.

With about 2 months to go before the onset of the annual dry season in January 2021, PBAPP would like to reiterate the importance of cloud seeding to induce maximum rainfall in the 3 water catchment areas of the Teluk Bahang Dam, Sungai Pinang and Batu Ferringhi.

Earlier this year, the State Government had approved cloud-seeding operations over key water catchment areas in Penang and Kedah. Eight of the 16 cloud seeding operations have been put on hold since July 2020, due to a technical issue by the cloud seeding contractor recommended by MetMalaysia.

During a meeting with the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) in Putrajaya on 24.9.2020, the Penang State Government had sought the assistance of the ministry to liaise with MetMalaysia to expedite the remaining 8 cloud seeding operations.

As such, these 8 remaining cloud seeding operations that have been scheduled for Penang must be prioritised. All possible contingency measures must be implemented to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam with as much raw water as possible ...before the dry season sets in.

In view of the current status of the Teluk Bahang Dam, PBAPP would like to advise all water consumers in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and areas around Tanjung Bungah to kindly conserve water.

PBAPP needs your kind cooperation to use water wisely until the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is normalised. For water saving tips, please visit www.pba.com.my.

Thank You.

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