

7.10.2020

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP)

## **TELUK BAHANG DAM: EFFECTIVE CAPACITY UP BY 6.6% IN ONE MONTH BUT STILL ABNORMALLY LOW**

- **The Teluk Bahang Dam's effective capacity has increased from 16% (5.9.2020) to 22.6% (6.10.2020). Its effective capacity is targeted to be 45% by 31.12.2020 to ensure water sufficiency during the 2021 dry season.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 7.10.2020: Over the past month, rainfall has increased the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam by 6.6%, from 16% on 5.9.2020 to 22.6% on 6.10.2020.

This increment is also partly due to the successful implementation of the Sungai Pinang raw water contingency project by Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) since 10 September 2020.

As a result of this contingency project, the Teluk Bahang Dam is now being refilled with raw water from two water catchment areas: the Teluk Bahang Water Catchment Area and the Sungai Pinang Water Catchment Area.

Raw water from the Sungai Pinang Water Catchment Area (about 8.6km away) is being channeled to the dam via a 450mm pipeline. The potential yield is 10 million litres per day (MLD).

### **Not out of the danger zone yet**

Nevertheless, PBAPP is still very concerned with the abnormally low effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam.

We are targeting an effective capacity of 45% for 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 effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam was 41.8%. It was with this level of effective capacity that we managed to weather through the dry months, from January to August 2020.

As such, we need the Teluk Bahang Dam to reach an effective capacity of 45% or higher by 31.12.2020, to sustain normal water supply services in the period January to August 2021.

As things stand, we are not out of the danger zone yet.

### **More rainfall and cloud seeding needed to refill the dam**

Significantly more rainfall (in the Teluk Bahang and Sungai Pinang Water Catchment Areas) is needed to to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam. This is the only way to refill the dam to safer levels before the end of the year.

Although there has been rainfall recently, PBAPP has advised the Penang State Government that it would not be prudent to rely purely on natural rainfall to refill the dam.

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.

Apparently, the cloud-seeding contractor recommended by MetMalaysia, AFJETS, had not received the “flares” needed for cloud seeding from another MetMalaysia contractor, MTO. As such, all cloud seeding operations for Penang in August and September 2020 were postponed.

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.

These 8 outstanding cloud seeding operations will primarily target the water catchment areas of the Teluk Bahang Dam. As such, these operations are critical operations that must be carried out before 31.12.2020, to refill the dam with as much rainwater as possible.

## Consumers must use water wisely

More than 80% of the raw water that PBAPP abstracts daily for its state-wide water supply operations comes from Sungai Muda in Seberang Prai. On 6.10.2020, the river level of Sungai Muda was satisfactory at 2.46m, while the effective capacity of the Mengkuang Dam (Penang's primary strategic drought reserve dam) was 89.0%.

Meanwhile, the Teluk Bahang Dam is an important component of the water supply system that serves about 38,000 water accounts in the areas of Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and around Tanjung Bungah. Since its commissioning in 1999, this dam has helped to sustain continuous good water supply for communities living in the Northern tourism belt of Penang Island.

The key reason for the "abnormal status" of the Teluk Bahang Dam today is abnormally low rainfall in the period 1.9.2019 - 18.9.2020. During this period, the total rainfall recorded in the dam's water catchment areas was 4,545 mm. This amount of rainfall is 33.8% lower than the average rainfall of 6,863 mm for the 3-year corresponding period in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The likeliest cause of this lower rainfall phenomenon is climate change.

On its part, PBAPP has been optimising the daily raw water drawdowns from the dam, so that its effective capacity can reach 45% by 31.12.2020.

Water consumers in the supply areas of the Teluk Bahang Dam are kindly advised to conserve water and use it wisely.

Please help us to ensure that the Teluk Bahang Dam can store enough water by year's end to meet your water supply needs during the dry months of 2021.

Do not leave a tap running unnecessarily. Avoid using a hose to clean your vehicles, or to water your gardens and plants. For more water saving tips, please visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

Thank You.

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