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PRESS STATEMENT

by **DATO' IR. JASENI MAIDINSA**
CEO, PBA Holdings Bhd and PBAPP

PBAPP MINIMISING RAW WATER DRAWDOWNS FROM THE TELUK BAHANG DAM

- **Rainfall is needed in the water catchment areas of the dam to replenish its effective capacity.**
- **Penang State Government has commissioned cloud seeding operations to be carried out from the end of August 2020, to induce rainfall in the water catchment areas of the dam.**

PENANG, Monday, 24.8.2020: Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has been minimising raw water drawdowns from the Teluk Bahang Dam on Penang Island.

The dam's effective capacity was 17.2% today, which is sufficient to support 52 days of "normal" water supply in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and areas around Tanjung Bungah. This is the lowest effective capacity recorded for the dam since it was commissioned in 1999.

In the period 1.8.2020 – 21.8.2020, the effective capacity of the dam dropped from 20.0% to 17.3%. This represents a reduction of 2.7% (or an average of 0.13% per day), although only 68.5mm of rainfall was recorded in the dam's water catchment areas.

The minimal drop in effective capacity is the result of PBAPP minimising drawdowns to "extend" the dam's days of supply for as long as possible. The less the drawdown, the longer the dam's remaining reserves will last.

However, PBAPP has to sustain continuous water supply in the northern "tourist belt" areas of the island. To ensure 24/7 water supply services in these areas, PBAPP still needs to draw down water from the Teluk Bahang Dam daily. We may not stop drawdowns completely or shut down the dam, although its effective capacity is very low.

Only rainfall can replenish the Teluk Bahang Dam

The Teluk Bahang Dam is an important component of a water supply system that serves about 38,000 registered water consumers in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and areas around Tanjung Bungah.

Since 1999, the Teluk Bahang Dam has played its role effectively in supporting continuous good water supply in its service areas.

The raw water that is stored in the dam is, in fact, rainwater collected from the water catchment areas (hillside forests) surrounding the dam.

The key reason for the “abnormal status” of the Teluk Bahang Dam today is low rainfall in the 12-month period from 1.8.2019 to 31.7.2020. During this period, the total rainfall recorded in the dam’s water catchment areas was 4,466mm. This amount of rainfall is 30.3% lower than the average rainfall of 6,411mm for the 3-year corresponding period in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

As such, we need more rainfall in this dam’s water catchment areas. This is the only way to replenish its raw water reserves.

8 cloud seeding operations for Teluk Bahang Dam

Upon recommendation from PBAPP, the Penang State Government has commissioned 8 cloud seeding operations over the water catchment areas of the Teluk Bahang Dam.

The first series of these cloud seeding operations is scheduled to take place before the end of August 2020.

It should be noted that the results of cloud seeding operations are dependent on weather conditions, especially the presence of rain clouds over the targeted area.

As such, the 8 operations will be conducted on days when the weather conditions are optimal for maximum impact, in terms of rainfall. The operations will be conducted by a private company recommended by the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia).

The primary objective of the cloud seeding operations is to replenish the raw water reserves of the Teluk Bahang Dam immediately. The secondary objective is to achieve a “healthy” or “safe” dam effective capacity by the December 2020, in preparation for the next annual dry season that is anticipated to commence from January 2021.

With cloud seeding operations to complement natural rainfall patterns at this time of year, it is hoped that the Teluk Bahang Dam will “recover” from the severe effects of climate change in Penang since mid-2019.

Use water wisely

In view of the 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.

Please do not leave a tap running, spray your garden with a hose or wash your car or motorcycle on a daily basis. For more water saving tips, please www.pba.com.my.

PBAPP needs your kind cooperation to use water wisely until the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is normalised.

Thank You.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Unit
Tel : 04-200 6607
Email : syarifah@pba.com.my