

29.1.2020

## PRESS STATEMENT

by **DATO' IR. JASENI MAIDINSA**

CEO, PBA Holdings Bhd and PBAPP

## **PENANG WATER ALERT 2: PBAPP INITIATES PROACTIVE CONTINGENCY MEASURES**

- **Minimised drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam**
- **Maximised water production at Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to meet demand on Penang Island**
- **Drawdowns from the expanded Mengkuang Dam to ensure delivery of sufficient raw water to the Sungai Dua WTP**
- **Call for continuing cloud seeding operations**
- **Pressure management during peak hours**

PULAU PINANG, Rabu, 29.1.2020: Although the cloud seeding has been carried out in Kedah, there has been minimal rainfall in the Northern Region. The Sungai Muda levels, the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam effective capacities are still decreasing.

Dam		Effective Capacity 28.1.2020
a.	Air Itam Dam	56.2%
b.	Teluk Bahang Dam	36.1%

Moreover, the level of Sungai Muda, Penang's primary raw water resource, was 1.46m on 28.1.2020. In fact, the river level has dipped below the 1.80m alert threshold since 1.1.2020. The normal level for Sungai Muda is above 2.0m.

Meanwhile, the capacity of the Muda Dam in Kedah, which releases water into Sungai Muda, is reported to be 9.56%. The capacity of the Beris Dam, the other Kedah dam that releases water into Sungai Muda, is reported to be 75.33%.

## Key Measures to Address the Dry Weather Challenge

In view of the challenging scenario, PBAPP is initiating the following 5 key proactive measures to ensure water supply sufficiency until the rains arrive in April 2020:

### 1. Minimised drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam

PBAPP issued its first 2020 public water alert on 15.1.2020. Since then, PBAPP has minimised drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam to prolong the “lifespan” of strategic drought reserves on Penang Island.

The following table shows the effects of this measure:

Dam		Effective Capacity 14.1.2020	Effective Capacity 28.1.2020	% Difference over 15 days
a.	Air Itam Dam	62.0%	56.2%	5.8%
b.	Teluk Bahang Dam	39.5%	36.1%	3.4%

### 2. Maximised water production at the Sungai Dua WTP

To meet water demand, PBAPP has been optimising the production of treated water at Penang’s largest water treatment plant, the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

The average production of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP was 950 million litres per day (MLD) since 1.1.2020. This measure has ensured that there were no supply issues on Penang Island, 24/7, despite minimised drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.

### 3. Strategic drawdowns from the Mengkuang Dam

Due to the dry season, the level of Sungai Muda, the main source of raw water for the Sungai Dua WTP is low. Moreover, the capacity of the Muda Dam in Kedah was reportedly at the critical level of 9.56% on 28.1.2020. Fortunately, the Beris Dam (75.33% capacity on 28.1.2020) is still releasing water to keep Sungai Muda “alive”.

Nevertheless, PBAPP is not taking any chances and is drawing down raw water from the expanded Mengkuang Dam. As at 28.1.2020, the effective capacity of the Mengkuang Dam is 73.4%.

PBAPP has been drawing between 50 MLD and 100 MLD from the Mengkuang Dam since 8.1.2020, to supplement the daily abstraction of raw water from Sungai Muda at the Lahar Tiang Intake.

These drawdowns are necessary to support optimised water production operations at the Sungai Dua WTP.

#### 4. Call for continuing cloud seeding operations

It should be noted that the maximum volume of raw water that PBAPP is able to draw down from the Mengkuang Dam is 300MLD, while the average treated water consumption in Penang in 2019 was 842.6MLD.

As such, while PBAPP is drawing down water from the Mengkuang dam, Penang is still highly dependent on Sungai Muda on a daily basis.

Accordingly, cloud seeding operations for Kedah and Penang must be sustained during this dry season, to induce as much rainfall as possible to sustain or increase the effective capacities of the dams in both states.

These cloud seeding operations are important to produce immediate results, as well as to mitigate the risks of a prolonged drought. Although the south-west monsoon season is expected in April 2020, its actual arrival date, and the amount of rainfall it will bring, cannot be accurately ascertained at this point in time.

#### 5. Pressure management

On the water distribution front, PBAPP has commenced pressure management initiatives to moderate water consumption throughout the State of Penang.

During peak consumption hours, water pressure will be managed to

ensure optimum supply to domestic and commercial customers.

If there is a sudden spike in water consumption, some suburban areas located on higher ground (or at the end of water pipelines) may experience low water pressure. Nevertheless, every registered water consumer in Penang should continue to receive water supply, 24/7.

This is a necessary measure to moderate or contain water consumption during the dry season. PBAPP must ensure that Penang has sufficient water for all until the rains arrive to fill up our dams and raise the levels of Sungai Muda again.

Finally, on behalf of PBAPP, I would like to seek the understanding and support of all Penangites to save water and use it wisely in the next 2 - 3 months.

Although Penang is not in immediate danger of water rationing, we must not be complacent. We should be proactive so as to avoid water rationing at all costs.

Please do not waste water. As far as possible, avoid using a hose.

- Use a broom and a mop to clean your home.
- Wash your car or motorcycle less often, and use a bucket and sponge when you do so.
- Use a watering can to water your garden or plants.
- Do not leave a tap running. Shut off every tap after use and kindly teach your household members to follow your example.

For more tips on how to save water, please visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

Thank You.

---

Issued by : Puan Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah  
Corporate Communications Unit  
Email : [syarifah@pba.com.my](mailto:syarifah@pba.com.my)





28.1.2020: Sungai Muda level dropped to 1.46m, at Penang's Lahar Tiang Intake © PBAPP 2020





**28.1.2020: Mengkuang Dam at 73.4% © PBAPP 2020**