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MEDIA RELEASE

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PENANG WATER SUPPLY ALERT 1 (2021): PBAPP IMPLEMENTING 2021 DRY SEASON CONTROL MEASURES DUE TO MINIMAL RAINFALL

- **Insufficient rainfall in the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam water catchment areas since 1.1.2021.**
- **The effective capacities of these two dams have dropped since 1.1.2021.**

PENANG, Friday, 12.3.2021: Dry weather water supply engineering control measures have been initiated in Penang due to minimal rainfall in the water catchment areas of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam since 1.1.2021.

The following table compares the effective capacities of the two dams on 1.1.2021 and 11.3.2021, as well as the recorded rainfall during this period:

Penang Dams	Effective Capacity (%)			Rainfall (mm)		
	1.1.2021	11.3.2021	% Variance	2021 1 Jan – 11Mar	2017 – 2020 1 Jan – 11 Mar (Average)	% Variance
Air Itam	95.2	77.3	-17.9	123.0	315.3	-61.0
Teluk Bahang	58.7	56.7	-2.0	53.5	555.5	-90.4

The primary service areas of the Air Itam Dam are Air Itam and Paya Terubong, while the primary service areas of the Teluk Bahang Dam are Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and Tanjung Bungah.

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) must draw down the reserves of the two dams on a daily basis to support water supply in those areas.

In the period 1.1.2021 to 11.3.2021, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam have reduced by 17.9% and 2.0% respectively because there was insufficient rainfall to “recover” the daily draw downs.

As such, the table shows a correlation between low rainfall in the dams’ water catchment areas and the reduction in the effective capacities of the dams.

Kindly note the following:

1. The Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam were not 100% full on 1.1.2021, due to insufficient rainfall in 2019 and 2020.
2. Penang is in the midst of an annual dry season, with some rainfall expected in April or May 2021. Due to climate change, it is difficult to predict the amount of rainfall in April or May. Please remember that the dry seasons in 2019 and 2020 were prolonged until July.
3. PBAPP must strive to sustain continuous good water supply services to support Penang’s on-going battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

PBAPP dry weather control measures

As a responsible and holistic water supply operator, PBAPP has implemented the following dry weather control measures to “sustain” the storage capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam in 2021:

- Monitoring dam capacities in Penang and Kedah, as well as Sungai Muda river levels, on a daily basis;
- Optimising daily drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam;
- Maximising water abstraction from Sungai Muda at the Lahar Tiang Intake and pumping the raw water to the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant for treated water production;
- Optimising water production from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (Penang’s largest water treatment plant) in Seberang Prai and

pumping treated water from the plant to Penang Island, via submarine pipelines, to ensure water supply sufficiency;

- Drawing down raw water from the Mengkuang Dam in Seberang Prai to support water production at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant as necessary. The effective capacity of the Mengkuang Dam was 94.9% on 11.3.2021;

Cloud seeding

PBAPP will recommend cloud seeding operations to the Penang state government in 2021. The objective is to achieve a minimum of 80% effective capacities in the Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams by December 2021.

Water conservation by consumers

In the meantime, Penang water consumers are requested to use water wisely during this dry season by adopting the following 3 key practices immediately to reduce their water consumption:

1. Avoid using a hose to clean your home or wash your vehicle. 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.
2. Do not use a hose to water your garden or plants every day. Use a watering can instead.
3. Do not leave a tap running. Shut off every tap after use and kindly teach your children to follow your example.

For more water saving tips, please visit www.pba.com.my

Thank You.

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Recorded Rainfall (mm) Penang Island Dam Catchment Areas (Jan - Mar, 2017 - 2021)

