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Media Release

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2023 PENANG WATER ALERT 2: PENANG ISLAND DAM CAPACITIES NEARING 50% LEVELS

- **Low rainfall recorded at the water catchment areas of Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam since 1.1.2023.**
- **Penang water consumers should use water wisely until rains arrive to refill dams.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 11.4.2023: The effective capacities of the two key dams on Penang Island have dropped to about 50% and water consumers are advised to use water wisely until heavy rains arrive to refill the dams.

As at 10.4.2023, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are as follows:

Dam Effective Capacity		1.1.2023	10.4.2023
1.	Air Itam Dam	82.5%	51.8%
2.	Teluk Bahang Dam	64.0%	51.3%

The amount of rainfall recorded in the dams' water catchment areas for the months of January, February and March 2023 are as follows:

Rainfall Recorded in Water Catchment Areas	Air Itam Dam (mm)	Teluk Bahang Dam (mm)
January 2023	20.0	62.5
February 2023	85.5	106.0
March 2023	23.5	82.5
Total	129.0	251.0

Meanwhile, the average daily consumption of water for Penang in the corresponding 2 months were:

Water consumption in the State of Penang	Million litres per day (MLD)
January 2023	875
February 2023	944

These statistics reflect the facts that low rainfall in the dams' water catchment areas (WCAs) and high water demand are the two key factors that caused the effective

capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam to drop by 30.7% and 12.7% since 1.1.2023.

PBAPP WATER SUPPLY ENGINEERING RESPONSES

In response to this water supply alert scenario, Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) is implementing the following water supply engineering measures:

- Optimising raw water abstraction from Sungai Muda and treated water production at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (Sungai Dua WTP);
- Pumping more treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP to Penang Island (via 3 sets of twin submarine pipelines) to support water supply on the island;
- Minimising raw water drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam as far as possible, without compromising water supply services;
- Stepping up dry weather controls to strategically “defend” the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam for as long as possible;
- Re-scheduling planned pipe works to minimise water wastage;
- Responding to public reports of burst or leaking pipes as soon as possible; and
- Preparing contingency plans to address water demand in higher ground and end-of-line (EoL) areas if the current dry season persists.

PENANG DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMER COOPERATION

PBAPP is also seeking the cooperation of all Penang domestic water consumers (households) to use water wisely. PBAPP’s 2022 consumption analysis data shows that domestic water consumption accounted for 61.5% of Penang’s average daily consumption of 868 million litres per day (MLD).

As such, we would like to request for all households in Penang to kindly:

- Not leave any tap running;
- Avoid using a hose as far as possible;
- Clean vehicles (cars and motorcycles) only when necessary;
- Water gardens and plants using watering cans instead of hoses;
- Repair all leaking pipes and faucets immediately; and
- Storage of least one-day requirement in the household.

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

Your kind cooperation will be much appreciated. Let us work together to avoid a water supply shortage in Penang until the rainy season arrives.

Thank You.

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