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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### 2023 PENANG WATER ALERT 4: PBAPP WILL NOT GIVE UP IN THE FIGHT TO AVOID A WATER CRISIS IN AIR ITAM

- The effective capacity of the 2,160 million litre (ML) Air Itam Dam has dropped to 41.5% on 19.5.2023.
- PBAPP has minimised daily drawdowns from this dam from 22 million litres per day (MLD) to 15 MLD in May. Drawdowns may be further reduced.

PENANG, Sunday, 21.5.2023: In May 2023, Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has reduced its daily drawdown from the Air Itam Dam from 22 million litres per day (MLD) to 15 MLD. In June 2023, the daily drawdown may be lowered further to defend the dam's remaining raw water reserve.

When the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam falls below 30%, PBAPP may reduce daily drawdowns to the 10 MLD to 12 MLD range. This is only a rational option to manage the remaining raw water reserve of the dam to last until September 2023.

Nevertheless, to "play it safer", PBAPP is urgently seeking the cooperation of water consumers in Air Itam to reduce their water consumption from now.

The following table summarises the status of the two dams on Penang Island:

	Effective capacities		
	1.1.2023	19.5.2023	% reduction since 1.1.2023
AIR ITAM DAM	82.5%	41.5%	41%
TELUK BAHANG DAM	64.0%	45.7%	18.3%

The Air Itam Dam, with a maximum effective capacity of 2,160 million litres (ML), is a smaller dam than the Teluk Bahang Dam (18,240ML). Without rainfall in its water catchment area, the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam will be depleted faster than that of the Teluk Bahang Dam.

As such, the "defense" of the Air Itam Dam's remaining raw water reserve is a top priority mission for PBAPP at this point in time.

### Supply: PBAPP's actions in "defending" the Air Itam Dam

Dry weather water supply engineering controls have been imposed in Air Itam since 1.1.2023. However, abnormally low rainfall in the dam's water catchment area this year have compelled PBAPP to implement contingency measures.

Since May 2023, PBAPP has implemented the following measures:

- Limiting the daily drawdowns to 15 MLD;
- Optimising raw water abstraction from the Main Intake and Tat's Intake at the foothills of Penang Hill to supplement water production at the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Higher volumes of abstraction from these two supplementary raw water resources reduces dependency on raw water from the dam;
- Pumping more water from the Sungai Dua WTP in Seberang Perai to supply to as many peripheral areas around Air Itam as possible. This measure has reduced the service or supply area of the Air Itam Dam to encompass the premises of only 6,000 water consumers as compared to about 29,000 premises under normal conditions; and
- Responding promptly to reports of burst or leaking pipes within the reduced service area of the Air Itam Dam.

PBAPP has the option to transit from "contingency mode" to "stringent mode" in managing the Air Itam. However, more stringent engineering measures may result in water supply interruptions. PBAPP does not wish to cause inconveniences for consumers in Air Itam until it is absolutely necessary to do so.

### Demand: Air Itam water consumers need to join "the fight"

While focusing on tighter water supply engineering measures, PBAPP also needs the urgent cooperation of all water consumers in Air Itam to reduce water demand.

At this point in time, every Air Itam water consumer may choose between 2 options:

- The first option is to take it easy, continue to use water without a care and hope for the best.
- The second option is to join PBAPP in fighting to "defend" the effective capacity of Air Itam Dam for as long as possible, by simply using less water every day.



PBAPP hopes that the majority of water consumers in Air Itam will choose the second option. Those who choose this option can visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my) for water saving tips.

Meanwhile, as far as PBAPP is concerned, it will not give up in the fight to avoid a water crisis in Air Itam in 2023.

Thank You.

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