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Media Release

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PENANG CLOUD SEEDING 2023: FIRST WAVE OF OPERATIONS RESCHEDULED TO EARLY MAY

- **Operations rescheduled in order to maximise the potential of heavy rainfall based on weather conditions.**
- **Targets: Water catchment areas for Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.**

PENANG, SUNDAY, 30.4.2023: The first wave of Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) cloud seeding operations over Penang have been rescheduled to commence in early May, based on recommendations by METMalaysia.

The primary rationale behind this move is to maximise the potential of heavy rainfall by carrying out cloud seeding operations only when the weather conditions are optimal (when large rain clouds are forecasted to be present at the right elevations).

PBAPP was officially informed of this decision by the Penang Water Regulatory Body (Badan Kawal Selia Air – BKSA) in a letter dated 28.4.2023.

We fully support this result-oriented approach. PBAPP appreciates the kind support of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), RMAF, METMalaysia and BKSA in arranging and expediting the cloud seeding operations for Penang.

The following chart shows the effective capacities of the two dams on Penang Island:

DAM EFFECTIVE CAPACITIES		
	1.1.2023	29.4.2023
AIR ITAM DAM	82.5%	43.6%
TELUK BAHANG DAM	64.0%	49.1%

The effective capacities of these two dams have been depleted due to lack of rainfall in the relevant water catchment areas.

A prolonged dry season (as related to climate change) and high water demand in Penang since 1.1.2023 are the key causes of this phenomenon. The dams should be refilled with as much water as possible to avoid a potential water supply crisis in Penang before the next rainy season.

The RMAF aircraft carrying out the cloud seeding operations in May 2023 will take off from the Subang RMAF Air Base in Selangor. A PBAPP engineer has been assigned to be on-board to witness each sortie over Penang.

PBAPP will also monitor the results of the cloud seeding operations by recording rainfall in the targeted water catchment areas and the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam, after the operations are completed. Depending on the outcome, the Penang State Government and PBAPP may request for more cloud seeding operations in 2023.

Thank You.

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