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Media Release

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## **AIR ITAM DAM ACTION PLAN 2024 PROPOSAL: POTENTIALLY “INCREASING” EFFECTIVE CAPACITY TO 50% BY END-APRIL 2024**

PENANG, Friday, 2.2.2024: PBAPP is finalising an “Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024” (AIDAP 2024) proposal to the Penang State Government that may potentially increase the effective capacity of the dam from 34.6% to 50% by end-April 2024.

The concept is to draw down less water from the dam than the average inflow of raw water into the dam daily.

- The Air Itam Dam receives about 15 million litres of water per day (MLD) from three intakes: Balik Pulau Intake, Side Stream Intake and Sungai Pinang West Intake.
- PBAPP is planning to reduce the daily drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam to the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant (WTP) by 75%, from 44 MLD to 11 MLD.
- As such, there would be an average daily surplus of 4 MLD (15 MLD dam inflow – 11 MLD dam drawdown = 4 MLD surplus) that will be “deposited” in the Air Itam Dam.

Over a 3 months or 90-day period, the accumulated deposits will total about 360 million litres, which could potentially increase the effective capacity of the dam by about 15%.

### **3 Critical Factors for Success**

The Air Itam Water Treatment Plant (WTP) produces 50 MLD of treated water to meet the needs of about 30,000 consumers in its service area. It is presently drawing 44 MLD of raw water from the Air Itam Dam as well as 6 MLD from Main’s Intake and Tat’s Intake.

Hence, the success of the AIDAP 2024 would be dependent on the following 3 key factors:

1. Sustainability of 6 MLD raw water intake from Main’s Intake and Tat’s Intake.
2. 33 MLD treated water support from the Sungai Dua WTP in Seberang Perai which will be re-pumped at the Padang Brown Pumping Station into the service area of the Air Itam WTP. This will make up for the 33 MLD shortfall in drawdown from the Air Itam Dam.
3. Cloud seeding operations to induce sufficient rainfall in the water catchment areas

of the five intakes involved: Balik Pulau Intake, Side Stream Intake, Sungai Pinang West Intake, Main's Intake and Tat's Intake.

### Basic Summary of AIDAP 2024

• Present Water Supply "Dry Weather" Controls in Air Itam			
Raw Water Input	Sources	Water Treatment Plant (WTP)	Treated Water Output
44 MLD	Air Itam Dam	Air Itam WTP	50 MLD
6 MLD	Main's Intake and Tat's Intake		
• AIDAP 2024 Proposal			
Raw Water Input	Sources	Water Treatment Plant (WTP)	Treated Water Output
1. 11 MLD	Air Itam Dam	Air Itam WTP	17 MLD
2. 6 MLD	Main's Intake and Tat's Intake		
3. 33 MLD treated water support		Sungai Dua WTP	33 MLD
Total			<b>50 MLD</b>

PBAPP will check and verify all the facts and figures as well as reconfirm the engineering viability of the AIDAP 2024 proposal before presenting it to the Penang State Government for approval.

### Clarification

PBAPP would like to clarify that the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is at 34.6% today. This "effective capacity" is the capacity that matters for water supply operations.

There is a remaining 20% of water "below" this effective capacity. However, it has been confirmed last night that this "dead storage" cannot be used due to heavy siltation because the Air Itam Dam has been in service for 62 years.

Thank You.

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