



PBA

Perbadanan Bekalan Air
Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd
199901001061 (475961-X)

Memenuhi segala keperluan bekalan air anda
Meeting all your water supply needs



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Media Release

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AIDAP 2024: THE AIR ITAM DAM'S EFFECTIVE CAPACITY DROPPED BY 2.5% IN THE PAST 70 DAYS

- **On 5.2.2024, the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam was 32.8%. On 15.4.2024, the dam's effective capacity was 30.3%**

PENANG, Tuesday, 16.4.2024: PBAPP has significantly reduced its average daily raw water drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam since February 2024, with the implementation of the Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024 (AIDAP 2024).

The following table reiterates the core concept and rationale of the AIDAP 2024:

AIR ITAM DAM		Million Litres per Day (MLD)
Categories of drawdown		
a.	Normal average (non-dry weather)	44
b.	Dry weather controls	22
c.	AIDAP 2024	11
PBAPP is pumping water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to the Air Itam service area to "make up" for the 33 MLD shortfall in daily drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam.		

The AIDAP 2024 was implemented from 5.2.2024, when the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam was 32.8%. Yesterday, the dam's effective capacity was 30.3%.

These facts and figures reflect the results of the AIDAP 2024 to date:

1.	Duration of AIDAP 2024 (to date)	70 days
2.	Rainfall in Air Itam water catchment area (WCA)	138mm (low) in 70 days
3.	Percentage drop in Air Itam Dam effective capacity	2.5%
4.	2024 festive seasons since AIDAP 2024 (Peak times for water consumption)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese New Year • Hari Raya Aidilfitri

The results show that the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam has dropped by 2.5% in 70 days (average: 0.036% per day). During this timeframe, Penang celebrated 2 major festive seasons when the weather was hot and dry.



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Clarification 1: 30.3% effective capacity does not mean “30 days’ supply”

It has been speculated that “30.3% effective capacity at Air Itam Dam means 30 days of water supply in Air Itam.” This is an estimate which is misleading because:

- There is an important qualification: “with no rainfall.” When there is rainfall in the Air Itam WCA, the “number of days” will change.
- It is based on dry weather drawdowns of 22 MLD. Today, PBAPP is implementing the AIDAP 2024 with 11 MLD drawdowns.
- PBAPP has the option of further tightening AIDAP water supply controls to defend the remaining reserves of the dam for a longer period of time. However, the implementation of such controls may cause some inconveniences to some consumers in the Air Itam service area.

Clarification 2: Air Itam “alert status” started on 1.1.2024

As far as the Air Itam Dam is concerned, PBAPP has been operating on “alert status” since 1.1.2024. At the beginning of this year, the effective capacity of the dam was 68.9%, and not 100%.

From January, PBAPP was aware that drawdowns from this dam must be managed carefully until the rainy seasons of 2024. On 5.2.2024, with the onset of the full El Nino phenomenon in Penang, PBAPP implemented the AIDAP 2024 as a contingency measure when the dam’s effective capacity dropped to 32.8%.

In mid-April 2024, there is no denying that the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is low at 30.3%. However, PBAPP is still actively defending its remaining reserves through the AIDAP 2024.

Clarification 3: “30.3% effective capacity” is not a cause for panic

The results of the AIDAP 2024 over the past 70 days should reassure water consumers in Air Itam that a 30.3% dam effective capacity is not a cause for panic.

PBAPP does not know how long this hot and dry spell will last. However:

- Water supply services are still normal in the Air Itam service area.
- According to international weather reports, there will be a transition from a hot and dry El Niño phenomenon to a wet and rainy La Niña phenomenon soon.



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- METMalaysia is forecasting higher rainfall in Penang in the April – July 2024 timeframe, with the arrival of an inter-monsoon season.

To make sure that we have enough water in Penang, water consumers (especially Air Itam consumers) should reduce water consumption by 10% in April, May and June 2024.

For domestic water savings tips, please visit: www.pba.com.my

Thank You.

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