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Media Release

**IR. PATHMANATHAN K.**  
CEO, PBAHB and PBAPP.

**WATER SUPPLY ALERT: PLEASE USE LESS (AND NOT MORE) WATER TO AVOID ISSUES IN PENANG DURING THIS DRY SEASON**

- **Estimated water consumption in Penang hit 927 million litres per day (MLD) on 17.3.2024 as compared to an 877 MLD average in 2023.**
- **PBAPP is producing as much water as possible but this 50 MLD surge in consumption is causing water supply issues in some areas.**

PENANG, Monday, 18.3.2024: PBAPP would like to appeal to all Penang water consumers to kindly reduce their water consumption by 10% immediately.

Kindly refrain from using water hoses to water your gardens, clean your vehicles or premises immediately. Please use water wisely at home and at work.

**927 MLD water consumption**

On Sunday (17.3.2024), water consumption in Penang was estimated to have reached a high of 927 million litres per day (MLD) as compared to the daily average of 877 MLD recorded in 2023.

This represents a sudden 50 MLD surge in water consumption year-on-year.

Please allow me to clarify: 50 MLD refers to a volume of water that can fill 20 Olympic-size swimming pools a day or 33,333,333 large (1.5L) bottles of drinking water every day.

Such a surge in a water-stressed state is not wise or sustainable. It is causing issues in some areas in the South-West District (Daerah Barat Daya – DBD) and Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS), as reported by PBAPP in its FB posting dated 16.3.2024.

The following ballpark water supply engineering data outlines the scenario in Penang on 17.3.2024:

1.	PBAPP treated water production	
	• Total for 9 water treatment plants (WTPs): Penang Island and Seberang Perai	1266.3 MLD (2023 average: 1198 MLD)
2.	Average water loss (NRW) 2023	26.8%
3.	Estimated total state water consumption (1266.3 MLD – 26.8%)	927 MLD (2023 average: 877 MLD)
4.	Estimated consumption: Penang Island (42.7% of total consumption based on 2023 data)	396 MLD
5.	Estimated consumption: Seberang Perai (57.3% of total consumption based on 2023 data)	531 MLD

### Low Sungai Muda river level

In the timeframe from 14.3.2024 – 17.3.2024, the river level of Sungai Muda was 1.71m – 1.89m, which is below the “2.0m safe level” for water abstraction at the Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Perai.

The level of the 120 billion litre Muda Dam in Kedah that releases water into Sungai Muda reportedly dropped to 48.6% on 15.3.2024. Thankfully, the level of the Beris Dam, the second dam that may release water into Sungai Muda, was reportedly 98.6% on the same day.

PBAPP is continuing to abstract as much raw water as possible from Sungai Muda daily to meet Penang’s water demand. However, operations to release of water from the Muda Dam and Beris Dam into Sungai Muda during dry seasons lie in the hands of Kedah authorities.

Nevertheless, PBAPP personnel are on stand-by to draw down a maximum of 600 MLD from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD), as and when we are unable to abstract sufficient water from Sungai Muda.

### Dam report

As at 17.3.2024, effective capacity of Penang 3 key dams are as follows:

1.	Air Itam Dam	37.3%
2.	Teluk Bahang Dam	73.0%
3.	Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD)	89.6%

Please note that the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam dropped by 0.8%, from 38.1% on 15.3.2024 to 37.3% 17.3.2024. PBAPP was compelled to draw down more than 11 MLD from the dam. The Air Itam WTP had to produce 25 MLD of treated water to meet increased water demand.

Since 5.2.2024, PBAPP's implementation of the Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024 (AIDAP 2024) has increased the dam's effective capacity by 4.5%, from 32.8% on 5.2.2024 to 37.3% on 17.3.2024.

One of the key factors that will determine the continuing success of the AIDAP 2024 is moderate consumption of water. Please remember that PBAPP has been pumping 33 MLD of water from the Sungai Dua WTP into the Air Itam water supply service area to gradually increase the effective capacity of the dam.

However, if PBAPP is unable to continue pumping 33 MLD of treated water from Seberang Perai to Air Itam due to abnormally high water consumption, the AIDAP 2024 will not work. Moreover, there will be more widespread water supply issues in DBD and SPS.

So, please use less (and not more) water in Penang during this dry season. Our water supply is "not safe" until rainfall refills our dams and the Muda Dam in Kedah.

For water saving tips, please visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

Thank You.

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Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah  
Corporate Communications Unit  
Email : [syarifah@pba.com.my](mailto:syarifah@pba.com.my)