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Media Release

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USE WATER WISELY: PENANG DAM LEVELS UP BUT NOT “SAFE” YET

- **September rainfall is pushing up the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.**
- **However, the reserves of these 2 dams must reach significantly higher levels before the next dry season.**

PENANG, Monday, 23.9.2024: After 8 dry months in 2024, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam are finally showing good improvements with heavy rainfall since 1.9.2024.

The following is a summary of the status of Penang’s 3 key dams:

Dams	Maximum effective capacity (ML*)	Effective capacity on 23.9.2024 (%)	Rainfall (mm) 1.9.2024 – 23.9.2024
Air Itam Dam	2,159	58.3	273.5
Teluk Bahang Dam	18,240	31.3	287
Expanded Mengkuang Dam	86,400	90.3	535

* Million litres

Amongst the 3 dams, the Air Itam Dam is the “smallest dam” with a maximum effective capacity of 2,159 million litres (ML). It serves about 28,948 water consumers in Air Itam, Farlim and nearby areas.

Since February 2024, PBAPP has been implementing its Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024 (AIDAP 2024) to “defend” its reserves. Under the AIDAP 2024, PBAPP has been pumping up to 33 million litres per day (MLD) of treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) into the service area of the Air Itam Dam. The plan minimises the daily drawdowns from this dam and facilitates faster refilling.

The Teluk Bahang Dam has a maximum effective capacity of 18,240 ML (about 8.4x of the 2,159 ML of the Air Itam Dam). While the Teluk Bahang Dam may store more water, it will also take more rainfall to refill this dam. It serves about 45,850 consumers in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjong Bungah and nearby areas.

The Teluk Bahang Dam is refilled primarily by rainfall in the Teluk Bahang water catchment area (WCA). During wet seasons (including the present wet season),

PBAPP pumps raw water from 2 other nearby WCAs, namely the Batu Ferringhi WCA and Sungai Pinang WCA to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam as quickly as possible.

On the mainland, the reserves of the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) has almost reached the optimal level. For now, the EMD serves primarily as a “strategic drought reserve” and “contingency” dam. Its reserves are channeled to the Sungai Dua WTP whenever PBAPP is unable to abstract sufficient raw water from Sungai Muda (Penang’s primary raw water resource).

Treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP is supplied to a total of about 465,000 consumers in all 5 districts in the State of Penang, on the mainland and island.

Dam outlooks (September 2024)

PBAPP is recording more rainfall in the WCAs of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam in September 2024. The “dam levels” are rising. However, as you can see, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are 58.3% and 31.3% respectively, today, 23.9.2024. We have not reached “safe levels” yet.

One of PBAPP’s primary missions now is to facilitate optimal refilling of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam from September to December 2024. This is in preparation for the next dry season in Penang which is projected to commence from January 2025.

- Depending on the volume of rainfall and water consumption, it is plausible for the Air Itam Dam’s effective capacity to increase from 58.3% today to 85% or more by December 2024.
- It will take a large volume of rainfall for the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam to improve from 31.3% today to 80% or more by December 2024.

This is due to the fact that the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is 2,159 ML as compared to the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam which is 19,240 ML.

PBAPP will continue to implement the AIDAP 2024 to refill the Air Itam Dam quickly.

Meanwhile, at the northwestern side of the island, PBAPP will also pump as much raw water as possible from the Batu Ferringhi and Sungai Pinang WCAs to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam before January 2025.



That said, we cannot accurately foretell the volume of rain that will fall in the WCAs of these 2 dams over the next 3 months.

As such, PBAPP would also like to remind all water consumers in Penang to kindly use water wisely although it is raining.

For water saving tips, please visit www.pba.com.my

Please do your best to support our mission to raise the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam during this wet season. This way, Penang will be better prepared for the next dry season.

Thank You.

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