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Media Release

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CLOUD SEEDING BY NADMA AND RMAF OVER PENANG SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

- **Cloud seeding operations subject to “atmospheric and cloud conditions.”**
- **Targets: Water catchment areas for Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.**

PENANG, TUESDAY, 27.2.2024: Cloud seeding operations are scheduled to be conducted in the skies above Penang Island today and tomorrow (27.2.2024 and 28.2.2024). The goal is to induce as much rainfall as possible in the water catchment areas (WCAs) of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam.

These operations are directed and coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA in the Prime Minister’s Department) and will be conducted by the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).

According to an official notification to the Penang Water Supply Regulator (Badan Kawal Selia Air Pulau Pinang – BKSA), the scheduling and implementation of the cloud seeding operations are subject to “atmospheric and cloud conditions.”

In the period from 1.2.2024 to 27.2.2024, PBAPP has recorded only 45mm of rainfall in the Air Itam Dam WCA and 71.5mm of rainfall in the Teluk Bahang Dam WCA.

The following table traces the status of the dams since the beginning of the year:

Table A: EFFECTIVE CAPACITIES OF DAMS ON PENANG ISLAND			
	1.1.2024	27.2.2024	% difference
*AIR ITAM DAM	68.9%	37.0%	- 31.9%
TELUK BAHANG DAM	95.4%	79.6%	- 15.8%

Last year, successive cloud seeding operations in May and June contributed to a total of 30.5mm of rainfall in the Air Itam Dam’s water catchment areas. This rainfall helped to ensure that there was no water crisis in Air Itam in 2023.

This year, we thank NADMA, RMAF, the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) and the Penang State Government for their rapid responses to cloud seeding requests made earlier this month.

The effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is low. The effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is dropping. Hence, any amount of rainfall will be useful as we strive to defend the raw water reserves of these dams until the next rainy season.

*** AIDAP 2024: Raising the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam**

Meanwhile, PBAPP’s implementation of its “Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024” (AIDAP 2024) is gradually raising the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam, as shown in the table below:

Date	Effective Capacity
5.2.2024 (before Chinese New Year 2024)	32.8%
17.2.2024 (during Chinese New Year 2024)	32.4%
27.2.2024 (after Chinese New Year 2024)	37.0%

In summary, the AIDAP 2024 has “increased” the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam by 4.2% over the past 22 days, during a hot and dry Chinese New Year season when water demand was high.

The AIDAP 2024 is based on the following 4 key water supply engineering contingency measures:

1. Minimising raw water drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam to the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant (WTP) by 75% daily, from 44 million litres per day (MLD) to 11 MLD.
2. Optimising raw water intake from the Main’s Intake and Tat’s Intake (the 2 other raw water resources for the Air Itam WTP) at a rate of 6 MLD.
3. Reducing treated water production at the Air Itam WTP by about 66%, from 50 MLD to 17 MLD per day.
4. Pumping 33 MLD of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP (Seberang Perai) into the service area of the Air Itam WTP. This measure is making up for the 33 MLD shortfall in treated water output from the Air Itam WTP.

Today, the river level of Sungai Muda is 2.23m. PBAPP is abstracting raw water from this river to support optimal water production at the Sungai Dua WTP. Meanwhile, the capacities of the Muda Dam and Beris Dam that release water into Sungai Muda were reported as 63.2% and 100% respectively.

Kindly note that the sustainability and success of the AIDAP 2024 is also dependent on sufficient inflow of water from the following 5 raw water intakes on Penang Island:

- Air Itam Dam: Balik Pulau, Side Stream and Sungai Pinang West Intakes.
- Air Itam WTP: Main's and Tat's Intakes.

As such, PBAPP is grateful to the Federal Government and Penang State Government for initiating the much needed cloud seeding operations.

Thank You.

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