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Media Release

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PENANG WATER SUPPLY ALERT: PLEASE REDUCE CONSUMPTION BY 10% UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2024

- **Water consumption in Penang increased by 10 million litres per day (MLD) in January - June 2024 as compared to 2023.**
- **Low rainfall is causing issues at dams and water catchment areas.**
- **Sungai Muda river level has dipped below “safe level” in July 2024.**

PENANG, Saturday, 27.7.2024: PBAPP would like to appeal to Penang water consumers to kindly reduce their water consumption by 10% until the anticipated rainy season begins in September 2024.

In the period from January to June 2024, the average water consumption of water in Penang was 887 million litres per day (MLD). In the corresponding period in 2023, the average water consumption was 877 MLD.

In other words, water consumption in Penang has increased by an average of 10 MLD year-on-year. 10 MLD refers to a volume of water that may fill 6,667 big 1.5L drinking water bottles every day.

Low rainfall in 2024

Meanwhile, low rainfall since January 2024 has impacted water supply operations in Penang in the following ways:

- **Low effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam (41.1%) and Teluk Bahang Dam (31.9%) on 26.7.2024;**
- **Lower treated water production at the Waterfall Water Treatment Plant (WTP) due to lack of raw water from the water catchment area (WCA) of the Penang Waterfall;**
- **Lower treated water production at the Sungai Pinang (WTP) due to lack of raw water from the Titi Kerawang WCA;**

- Low Sungai Muda river levels (below the 2.0m mark) at Penang's Lahar Tiang Intake for 16 consecutive days since 11.7.2024.

The effective capacity of the Muda Dam that was built to release water into Sungai Muda plummeted to 9.9% on 25.7.2024. Fortunately, the effective capacity of the Beris Dam (Kedah) is at 60.2% and Kedah is releasing water into Sungai Muda.

PBAPP is drawing down on the reserves of the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) daily to supplement raw water abstraction from Sungai Muda.

PBAPP must abstract sufficient raw water from Sungai Muda (and draw down water from the EMD) to sustain optimal water production operations at the Sungai Dua WTP, Penang's most important WTP. Treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP is supplied to 465,000 water consumers in Seberang Perai and Daerah Barat Daya (DBD) on Penang Island.

As a result, there are sporadic and intermittent water supply issues in some neighbourhoods on Penang Island.

As announced yesterday, PBAPP is activating its crisis management plan to minimise the impact of the low rainfall issues and ensure that Penang has enough water until the September rainy season arrives.

However, we also need the support and cooperation of water consumers to avoid a water crisis in Penang under the present adverse circumstances.

High per capita domestic consumption

As at December 2023, there were 593,255 registered domestic water consumers in Penang. These consumers accounted for 57.4% of the total volume of water that was consumed in the State in 2023.

Penang's per capita domestic consumption was 284 litres/capita/day (LCD) in 2023. The national average was 237 LCD in 2022. In Singapore, per capita domestic consumption was 141 LCD in 2023.

On average, a Penangite used about 19.8% more water at home in 2023 than the national average; and about 101.4% more water than a Singaporean.



10% reduction in domestic consumption will save 50 MLD

PBAPP data indicates that a 10% reduction in domestic consumption in Penang in 2024 will translate into a water saving of 50 MLD.

If every Penang domestic water consumer can reduce water consumption by 10%, we will be in a much better position to ensure that there is enough water supply until the rains arrive in September 2024.

As such, I would like to appeal to Penang domestic consumers to kindly use less water at home now. Please play your role to minimise the risk of a water crisis in our state in 2024.

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

Your kind understanding, support and cooperation is much appreciated.

Thank You.

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