

29.2.2024

Media Release

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CLOUD SEEDING DONE BUT NO RAINFALL RECORDED IN PENANG'S DAM WATER CATCHMENT AREAS

- **Cloud seeding operations conducted by RMAF as scheduled on 27.2.2024 and 28.2.2024.**
- **However, no rainfall was recorded in the water catchment areas of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.**

PENANG, THURSDAY, 29.2.2024: Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) aircraft were spotted carrying out two cloud seeding operations in the skies over water catchment areas (WCAs) on Penang Island on 27.2.2024 and 28.2.2024.

However, PBAPP did not record any rainfall during or after the cloud seeding operations in the WCAs of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam. As such, these cloud seeding operations did not and will not increase the effective capacities of the two dams.

The likely factors for this outcome are unfavourable atmospheric and cloud conditions. Cloud seeding may usually induce more rainfall if there are rain clouds at a specific altitude. If there are no clouds, not enough clouds, or if the air temperature is too high for water drops to form in the clouds and fall, cloud seeding may not induce any rainfall.

On 8.2.2024, PBAPP issued a mass media release requesting for cloud seeding in March 2024, during an inter-monsoon season, when rain clouds should be prevalent over the skies of Penang. As such, PBAPP hopes that the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA in the Prime Minister's Department) will commission the RMAF to conduct additional cloud seeding operations in Penang next month.

Penang Dams Status Report (29.2.2024)

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

EFFECTIVE CAPACITIES OF DAMS ON PENANG ISLAND				
	Max. effective capacity (in million litres - ML)	1.1.2024	29.2.2024	% difference
*Air Itam Dam	2,160	68.9%	37%	- 31.9%
Teluk Bahang Dam	18,240	95.4%	79.1%	- 16.3%

Please note that following key facts and figures:

- The maximum effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is 2,160 million litres (ML). The maximum effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is 18,240 ML. In terms of water volume, a 1% drop in the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam (182.4 ML) is roughly equivalent to an 8.4% drop in the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam.
- The effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is low. However, it has increased slightly by 4.2%, from 32.8% on 5.2.2024 to 37% on 29.2.2024, although there has only 45mm of rainfall in the Air Itam Dam WCA and the weather has been hot. This increase is due to the Air Itam Dam Action Plan 2024 (AIDAP 2024).
- Under the AIDAP 2024, PBAPP has reduced daily drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam by 75%. Accordingly, the treated water output of the Air Itam Dam Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has also dropped by 66%. To ensure water supply sufficiency in Air Itam, PBAPP is pumping 33 million litres of treated water per day (MLD) from the Sungai Dua WTP in Seberang Perai into the service area of the Air Itam WTP.
- The success of the AIDAP 2024 in "defending" the Air Itam Dam until the next rainy season is dependent on 3 key factors:
 1. Availability of sufficient treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP and raw water from Sungai Muda in Seberang Perai;
 2. Sufficient raw water inflow into 5 raw water intakes for the Air Itam Dam and Air Itam WTP on Penang Island; and
 3. Prudent water consumption of water by the 30,000 water consumers in the Air Itam water supply service area. Please use water wisely until the rains arrive to refill the Air Itam Dam.

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

Thank You.

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28.2.2024: Air Itam Dam effective capacity at 37.0%. © PBAPP 2024.



28.2.2024: RMAF aircraft carrying out a cloud seeding operation above Air Itam Dam, Penang. © PBAPP 2024.



28.2.2024: RMAF aircraft carrying out a cloud seeding operation above Air Itam Dam, Penang. © PBAPP 2024.