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Media Release

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**WATER SUPPLY ALERT:
DAMS ON PENANG ISLAND “NOT FULLY RECOVERED”**

- **Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam not fully refilled by rainfall.**
- **PBAPP has implemented dry weather protocols in preparation for high festive water consumption in the first quarter of 2025.**
- **Penang water consumers should use water wisely until there is rainfall in April or May 2025.**

PENANG, Monday, 30.12.2024: In the last 4 months of 2024, PBAPP recorded significant rainfall in the water catchment areas (WCAs) on Penang Island. However, the two dams on the island have not been fully refilled.

In the period from 1.9.2024 – 29.12.2024, the amount of rainfall recorded in the dams' WCAs are as follows:

Dam	Rainfall (past 120 days)
1. Air Itam Dam	979.0mm
2. Teluk Bahang Dam	944.5mm

Improvements in the statuses of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam may be summarised as follows:

Dam	Effective capacity 31.8.2024	Effective capacity 29.12.2024	% improvement
1. Air Itam Dam	30.8%	76.7%	+45.9%
2. Teluk Bahang Dam	25.8%	61.7%	+35.9%

Key factors

The key facts and figures behind the present statuses of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are as follows:

- The Air Itam Dam (opened in 1963) and the Teluk Bahang Dam (opened in 1999) were built to be refilled by rainfall in the respective WCAs.
- Both the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are “daily dams” from which raw water is drawn on a daily basis to produce treated water for distribution to water consumers in specific service areas. This means that whenever there is low rainfall and high water demand in these service areas, the effective capacities of the dams would inevitably plummet.
- The effective capacities of both dams were low in August 2024 due to the prolonged 2024 dry season which was related to the hot and dry El Niño phenomenon.
- Water consumption in Penang was high, at an average of 883 million litres per day (MLD) in November 2024.
- As such, despite significant rainfall in the past 4 months, the effective capacities of the two island dams have not fully recovered.

Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) status

On the mainland, the status of the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) is relatively good. As at 29.12.2024, effective capacity of the EMD is 91.6%.

This means that there is presently a high volume of water available from this dam to effectively “back up” water supply services in Seberang Perai (as well as the south-west district or DBD on Penang Island) when there is insufficient raw water to abstract from Sungai Muda.

Water supply scenario (January – March 2025)

The good news is that international weather reports are indicating an onset of a neutral ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) or mild La Niña (potentially colder and rainy) phenomenon in the first half of 2025.

At the very least, rainfall patterns in Penang Island should be more consistent in 2025. Hopefully, there will be some rainfall relief in April and May.

Nevertheless, PBAPP has implemented its dry weather water supply protocols to ensure water supply sufficiency in Penang since mid-November 2024.

At the same time, we would like to appeal to all Penang water consumers to use water wisely in the first quarter of 2025.



Penang has been fortunate to not experience major water supply outages in the last quarter of 2024. In Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu water supply services had been compromised due to recent floods.

However, we must be mindful of the less than optimal effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam. These two dams serve a total of 66,378 water consumers in Air Itam, Farlim, Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjung Bungah, Tanjung Tokong and surrounding areas.

Please visit www.pba.com.my for water saving tips. By reducing your water consumption in 2025, you will be positively contributing towards ensuring longer lasting dam reserves in the new year.

Thank You.

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