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Media Release

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PBAPP EXTENDS “AIDAP” TO 2025 TO AVOID WATER SHORTAGE

- **Drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam will be capped at 22 MLD.**
- **PBAPP will continue to pump up to 33 MLD of treated water from Seberang Perai to the Air Itam supply area on Penang Island.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 31.12.2024: PBAPP will continue to implement its Air Itam Dam Action Plan (AIDAP) in 2025 to avoid a water shortages in the Air Itam township as well as the Farlim area and surrounding areas.

The key rationales for the AIDAP 2025 are as follows:

- The Air Itam Dam was commissioned 61 years ago, in 1963. Its maximum storage capacity is 2,159 million litres (ML), as compared to the maximum storage capacities of the Teluk Bahang Dam (18,240 ML) and the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (86,400 ML). It is not a big dam.
- The effective capacity Air Itam Dam was 76.7 % on 30.12.2024. Without rainfall and/or water supply engineering intervention, the reserves of the Air Itam Dam may be depleted quickly in 2025.
- Although international weather reports are not predicting another hot and dry El Niño phenomenon in 2025, it is better to “play it safe” to avoid a water shortage.

Accordingly, PBAPP will continue to implement the following 3 key AIDAP protocols to provide peace of mind to water consumers in the Air Itam Dam service areas:

1. Capping drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam to 22 MLD;
2. Pumping up to 33 MLD of treated water from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Seberang Perai into the Air Itam Dam service area; and

3. Optimising treated water production at the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant (WTP) based primarily on raw water availability from 2 other water sources (Mains Stream and Tat's Stream);

In 2024, the successful implementation of these protocols ensured that there was no major water supply issue in Air Itam and Farlim as related to a prolonged hot and dry El Niño phenomenon.

Water consumer support

The Air Itam Dam may only be refilled by rainfall in its water catchment area (WCA). Rainfall in the Air Itam Dam's WCA in 2025 is beyond the control of PBAPP or anyone else.

However, daily water consumption is within the control of 28,948 registered water consumers in the Air Itam Dam's service areas.

In 2023, per capita domestic water consumption in Penang was 284 litres/capita/day (LCD). In 2022, the national average was 237 LCD, or 16.5% less. Meanwhile, Singapore has reported a figure of 141 LCD for 2023.

Malaysia's national average and Singapore's numbers indicate that, on average, Penangites consume too much water at home.

High per capita domestic consumption has repercussions. One of the repercussions is a higher risk of a water crisis when water consumers use more water than may be supplied by a dam during a dry season. Another repercussion is the high cost for additional water supply infrastructure that will inevitably be paid by water consumers through significantly higher water rates.

It is safer and more rational for Penang water consumers to use water wisely in 2025. Please visit www.pba.com.my for water saving tips.

Teluk Bahang Dam

As we look ahead to 2025, the scenario in the Teluk Bahang Dam service area (Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjong Bungah, Tanjong Tokong and surrounding areas) is also less than ideal.

The effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam was 61.7 % on 30.12.2024.

Fortunately, the Teluk Bahang Dam is a bigger dam. In terms of actual volume, its effective capacity is 18,240 ML, or 844.8% more than the Air Itam Dam's 2,159 ML.



Unfortunately, while PBAPP may implement the AIDAP to support the Air Itam Dam, we may not pump treated water from Seberang Perai into the service area of the Teluk Bahang Dam.

So, please think about water consumption in the coming new year.

PBAPP will continue to do its best to serve Penang in 2025. We will be able to do our job better with the kind support and cooperation of a Penang community which uses water wisely so that available water resources may be shared sustainably.

On behalf of PBAPP, I wish all of our customers a happy and prosperous new year.

Thank You.

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