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Media Release

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(World Water Day 2025)

250 LCD: PENANG DOMESTIC WATER SAVING TARGET 2025

- **Reduction of 11 litres/capita/day (LCD) from 261 LCD in 2024.**
- **Total savings by 1.8 million Penangites: 19.8 million litres per day (MLD).**

PENANG, Saturday, 3.5.2025: PBAPP has set a 2025 per capita domestic water saving target of 250 litres/capita/day (LCD) for Penang.

Please note that Malaysia's national average was 237 LCD in 2023. Singapore reported an average of 141 LCD for 2023.

So, 250 LCD is a small step forward for Penang. In our opinion, small progressive steps forward can pay a good dividends in terms of water supply sufficiency and security in the future.

We decided to set a reasonable and achievable target. 250 LCD in 2025 is just 11 LCD less than the 261 LCD we recorded for 2024.

However, the impact will be significant. If 1.8 million people in Penang use 11 LCD less water at home, it will add up to a combined water saving of 19.8 million litres per day (MLD) in 2025.

A domestic water saving of 19.8 MLD should reduce Penang's overall water consumption by about 2.3% from 870 MLD in 2024 to about 850 MLD in 2025.

In 2024, domestic water consumption constituted about 54% of total water consumption in Penang. So, whenever Penangites use less water at home, it will go a long way to:

- Ensure water supply sufficiency and sustainability in all areas in Penang, even during peak periods of consumption such as major festivals and holiday seasons;
- Help to stabilise and equalise water pressure for all water consumers;

- Reduce intermittent water issues in the end-of-line (EoL) and high ground areas in Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS) and Daerah Barat Daya (DBD) on Penang Island; and
- Help us to weather through prolonged dry seasons and El Niño with lower risks of water crises.

Impact of climate change on water supply

For PBAPP, it is a fact that climate change has affected water supply operations in the State of Penang, as shown in the following table:

| Dam | Effective capacity 1.1.2025 | Effective capacity 2.5.2025 | Difference |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Teluk Bahang Dam | 61.7% | 48.6% | - 13.1% |
| Air Itam Dam | 76.7% | 54.1% | - 22.6% |
| Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) | 91.2% | 91.2% | 0% |

Please note the following facts and figures:

1. The Teluk Bahang Dam and Air Itam Dam were not full on 1.1.2025. Due to unpredictable weather in recent years, we cannot say for sure if these dams will be refilled to 100% by December 2025.
2. There was significantly less rainfall in the water catchment areas (WCAs) of these 2 dams in recent years, due to prolonged El Niño phenomena.

| Rainfall in WCA | 3-year average 2017 – 2019 | 5-year average 2020 – 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Teluk Bahang | 1,037mm | 262mm | 307mm |
| Air Itam Dam | 553mm | 185mm | 122mm |

3. The Teluk Bahang Dam and Air Itam Dam were designed and built to be refilled rainfall in the respective WCAs. On the other hand, the EMD was designed and built to be refilled primarily by water pumped up from Sungai Kulim.

We may ask for cloud seeding operations to induce rainfall in the WCAs. However, the outcome of cloud seeding operations are uncertain. Even if it does rain, it will usually last for a few hours or a day only.



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Water supply and demand

There are two sides to the water supply management equation: “supply” and “demand”.

PBAPP is working hard to implement projects costing more than RM1 billion under its Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030) to ensure that it can “supply” sufficient water in Penang towards Year 2030.

At the same time, we need the cooperation of Penang domestic water consumers to reduce the overall “demand” for water in Penang towards Year 2030.

So, by using water wisely at home, Penang domestic water consumers will play an important role to reduce Penang’s water risks until 2030, ensure fair and equitable water supply throughout the state and support the *Penang2030* vision.

Please help us to ensure that Penang becomes “a family-focused, green and smart state that inspires the nation.”

It is not difficult for us to achieve 250 LCD for Penang in 2025. Please visit www.pba.com.my for water-saving tips.

Thank You.

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