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Media Release

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TELUK BAHANG DAM: PBAPP WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR “BEST MAINTENANCE”

- **“Best Dam Maintenance” at the 3rd International Conference on Dam Safety Management and Engineering 2025**

PENANG, Monday, 10.11.2025: PBAPP has won an international award for “Best Dam Maintenance” in regard to the Teluk Bahang Dam.

The award for “Best Dam Maintenance” was issued by the 3rd International Conference on Dam Safety Management and Engineering 2025 (ICDSME 2025) on 5.11.2025, in recognition of PBAPP’s outstanding commitment and excellence.

In effect, this award recognises PBAPP’s efforts in managing and maintaining the Teluk Bahang Dam as one of the safest functional dams in Malaysia, based on the status of the dam today.

Award Rationales

The rationales for the ICDSME Award may be summarised as follows:

- Dam management in accordance to 3 international ISO benchmarks: ISO 9001:2015 for quality and continuous improvement; ISO 45001:2018 for occupational health & safety; and ISO 14001:2015 for environmental protection, preservation and conservation.
- Preventive inspections, 3rd party assessments and asset rehabilitation to ensure structural integrity and long-term resilience.
- Emergency response plans, emergency drills and stakeholder awareness programmes to ensure community safety. PBAPP is also drafting a comprehensive emergency action plan (EAP) for implementation.

- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives including hosting of international dragon boat racing events (when possible), tree-planting and water awareness projects for schoolchildren;
- Utilisation of dam monitoring systems and instrumentation such as piezometers, seismic sensors and 24-hour CCTV surveillance.
- Daily effective capacity readings (with pre-set parameters for “Alert 1”, “Alert 2” and “Critical” readings).
- Raw water quality controls: daily visual inspections, weekly boat patrols and monthly raw water sampling and testing.
- Recordings of daily visual inspections, instrument measurements and rainfall in water catchment area.
- Securely keeping the dam open daily to the public as a green recreational area and tourist attraction.

History & Background

The Teluk Bahang Dam was officially opened in 1999 by the late Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who was then serving as Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. It has a maximum effective capacity of 18,240 million litres (ML) and was built to specifically meet the water needs of the beach front tourist belt and residential areas in the northern areas of Penang Island.

The dam’s service area encompasses Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjung Bungah and Tanjung Tokong. With a maximum water surface area of 0.95 sq. km, the Teluk Bahang Dam is primarily refilled by rainfall in a 9.84 sq. km water catchment area (WCA) in its immediate vicinity.

PBAPP also has a contingency refilling plan that involves the channelling of raw water from 2 other WCAs, the Sungai Pinang WCA and the Batu Ferringhi WCA, to refill the dam.

This plan was last activated in September and October 2020, after the dam’s effective capacity dropped to 16.0%. This abnormally effective capacity was directly related to abnormally low rainfall in the Teluk Bahang WCA in the period from August 2019 to July 2020.

By 1.1.2021, the Teluk Bahang Dam's effective capacity had recovered to 58.7%, before the beginning of the 2021 dry season.

As such, the Teluk Bahang Dam has not "run dry" in its 26-year service history.

Teluk Bahang Dam Status (9.11.2025)

The lowest effective capacity point recorded for the Teluk Bahang Dam this year was 45.6% on 10.4.2025, after 100 days of hot and dry weather.

In the recent 90 days, from 1.9.2025 to 9.11.2025, PBAPP recorded a total of 999.5mm of rainfall in Teluk Bahang WCA. As a result, the effective capacity of the dam reached 83.6% on 9.11.2025.

With more rain forecast in November 2025, the Teluk Bahang Dam's effective capacity may increase further. However, weather forecasts also indicate that December 2025 may be a drier month.

Barring unforeseeable circumstances, the Teluk Bahang Dam is in a "good position" to help about 37,000 consumers in Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjung Bungah, Tanjung Tokong and Mount Erskine weather through the year-start dry season which should commence from 1.1.2026.

Thank You.

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