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Media Release

DATO' IR. PATHMANATHAN K.
CEO, PBAPP and PBA Holdings Bhd.

AIR ITAM DAM NEARLY FULL AFTER 4 YEARS

- **99.4% effective capacity on 26.10.2025 and 27.10.2025.**
- **Most recent previous high: 93.4% on 2.12.2021**
- **526.5mm of rainfall recorded in dam water catchment area from 1.9.2025 – 27.10.2025.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 28.10.2025: For the first time in about 4 years, the 2,159 million litre (ML) Air Itam Dam in Penang is nearly full.

Its effective capacity was recorded at 99.4% on 26.10.2025 and 27.10.2025. The most recent previous high point was 93.4% on 2.12.2021.

The primary cause is recent heavy rainfall in the dam's water catchment areas (WCAs). PBAPP recorded a total of 526.5mm of rain in the Air Itam WCAs in about 2 months (1.9.2025 – 27.10.2025).

Accordingly, PBAPP is maximising raw water drawdowns from the Air Itam Dam for treated water production at the Air Itam Water Treatment Plant nearby. We will increase drawdown from the normal 22 million litres per day (MLD) up to a maximum of 65 MLD, as and when required.

Maximising drawdowns helps PBAPP to avoid excess water discharges from the dam through drains and rivers into the sea at all costs. PBAPP will not discharge water from the dam during storms or rainy days when the tides are high to minimise the risks of flooding in nearby low-lying areas.

Please note that the Air Itam Dam remains temporarily closed to the public due to recent landslides caused by storms. This is a temporary public safety measure. PBAPP will "re-open" the dam as a public recreation area when it is safe to do so.

Penang Dams Status Report

Rainfall over the past 2 months have helped to refill Penang's dams to "comfortable levels". Weather forecasts indicate that Penang may expect more rainfall in November 2025.

The following is a brief summary of the status of Penang's 3 major dams:

Dam	Effective capacity 1.1.2025	Effective capacity 27.10.2025	Difference in effective capacity
Air Itam Dam	76.7%	99.4%	+ 22.7%
Teluk Bahang Dam	61.7%	72.9%	+ 11.2%
Expanded Mengkuang Dam	91.2%	91.3%	+ 0.1%

- **Air Itam Dam:** Best position in 4 years “to face” the next dry season, provided its present status is not compromised by no rainfall and/or abnormally high water consumption before 1.1.2026.
- **Teluk Bahang Dam:** Gradually “recovering” as a result of 788.5mm of rainfall in its WCAs over the past 57 days (1.9.2025 – 27.10.2025). The target is to achieve 80% - 85% effective capacity by 1.1.2026 before the commencement of the year-start dry season.

Kindly note that the maximum effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is 18,240ML. It is a bigger dam with a maximum effective capacity that is about 8.5 times the maximum effective capacity Air Itam Dam (2,159 ML). As such, it will take more rainfall and time to completely refill this dam.

- **Expanded Mengkuang Dam:** Since 1.1.2025, PBAPP has been consistently sustaining a strong and stable effective capacity for this strategic drought reserve dam. Its reserves only come into play to “back-up” raw water supply to the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant during emergency response scenarios when PBAPP is unable to abstract sufficient water from Sungai Muda.
- **Sungai Muda:** PBAPP continues to optimise raw water abstraction from Penang’s primary raw water resource. Following heavy rains in Kedah, the river level has been very high since 24.10.2025; ranging from 3.16m to 4.74m at the Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU). The “safe level” for optimal water abstraction is 2.0m.

Thank You.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Section
Email : comms@pba.com.my