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Media Release

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(World Water Day 2026)

## **BE “WATER-ACTIVE” : LESS WATER CONSUMPTION IN PENANG IS AS IMPORTANT AS MORE WATER SUPPLY**

- **Penang is a water-stressed state. However, in 2025, per capita domestic consumption was 267 litres/capita/day, one of the highest (if not the highest) in Malaysia.**
- **The Federal Government, State Government and PBAPP are working on major water projects. Penang domestic water consumers should also reduce their household water consumption.**

PENANG, Saturday, 16.5.2026: Penang domestic water consumers should become “water-active” to help ensure water sufficiency until major water supply projects are completed in this era of climate change.

Being water-active means being aware of Penang’s water stress status, conscious of domestic water consumption, and, most importantly: taking action to reduce household water usage.

### **High domestic water consumption**

In 2025, the average total water consumption in Penang was 865 million litres per day (MLD). Of this 865 MLD, 482 MLD (55.7%) was consumed by Penang households. Meanwhile, non-domestic water consumption by all the factories, hotels, shopping malls, business premises and government offices amounted to 383 MLD.

The per capita domestic consumption statistic for Penang was 267 litres/capita/day (LCD) in 2025. The national average was 225 LCD in 2024. Meanwhile, Singapore reported 141 LCD for 2024.

On one hand, household consumption in Penang is high. On the other hand, Penang is a water-stressed state with a total land area of only 1,158km<sup>2</sup>. Since there is limited land, it follows that we have limited raw water resources.

## **Less water consumption as important as more water projects**

The Federal Government, the Penang State Government and PBAPP are implementing water supply projects for the future. PBAPP is investing RM2.1 billion in its Water Contingency Plan 2030 (WCP 2030). The Federal Government is undertaking 5 additional federal projects at a total estimated cost of RM838 million.

It is equally important for Penang domestic water consumers to use less water at home.

Water supply and consumption (or demand) are actually 2 components of 1 simple equation. As a licensed water operator, PBAPP strives to supply as much water as Penang needs. PBAPP cannot supply more water if there is no demand. On the contrary, our job is to make sure that taps do not run dry.

Water consumption in Penang increased from 827 MLD in 2016 to 865 MLD in 2025. It will continue to increase in the future, in pace with population and rapid socioeconomic growth.

### **3 good reasons**

There are 3 good reasons to be “water-active” in Penang in 2026:

1. Climate change has affected the volume and timing of rainfall in the water catchment areas (WCAs) of Penang’s Air Itam and Teluk Bahang Dam, as well as the Muda Dam and Beris Dam that release water into Sungai Muda during dry seasons.

Prolonged hot and dry seasons, as related to El Niño phenomena, increases the stress on our dams. Reducing domestic water consumption helps to alleviate the stress level.

So, if you save water at home, all of us will worry less whenever the weather is hot and dry.

2. Two of the 8 WCP 2030 projects have been completed. 6 more WCP 2030 projects are scheduled for completion by 2029. Similarly, the 5 federal projects are also scheduled for completion by 2029. Meanwhile, the Perak–Penang Water Project is projected to deliver water from Perak from 2031.

Lower domestic water consumption will “buy time” (from 2026 to 2029) to ensure that we have enough water supply until all these projects are commissioned.



# PBA

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3. Being water-active means paying less for your household water bill. In other words, conserving water at home reduces household expenses.

### **How to be water-active:**

It is not difficult to be water-active. You can start off with 3 simple practices:

- Do not leave a tap running. Please teach your children to do so as well.
- Do not use a hose to clean your vehicle or water your garden. Use a bucket of water and a wet cloth to clean your vehicle; and a “watering can” to water your plants instead.
- Please repair all leaking faucets, pipes and toilet flush systems immediately.

For more water savings tips, please visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

Thank You.

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