

Post-flood woes continue

While thousands are busy cleaning after the weekend storm in Penang, the road leading up to the Air Itam Dam has been closed temporarily following several landslides. The dam and the one in Teluk Bahang have also reached 100% capacity. >2, 3, 4, 6 and 10



Full to the brim: The Air Itam Dam is filled to its full capacity after the downpour. (Top right) One of the landslides along the road leading to the dam. —LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Downpour fills dams to the brim

New rainfall record set during 'most violent' storm recorded by PBAPP



THE Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams on Penang island have been completely filled following the torrential rain from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning.

A check on the Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) website showed that both dams were at 100% capacity.

The dams spilled some water on Sunday and again yesterday.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the spillages were slight and islanders had nothing to worry about.

"Both dams are designed to overflow when reaching their capacity.

"This overflow will not cause flash floods," he said.

Jaseni described the "5/11" storm as the "most violent" recorded in the history of PBAPP.

He said a rainfall record of 320mm was set over 24 hours at Air Itam Dam.

This was higher than the 270mm recorded on Sept 15.

"The dam capacity shot up by 10%.

"There were landslides at various locations along the road leading to the dam.

"The road is temporarily closed," he said yesterday.

He said the viewing platform in front of the waterfall at Penang Botanic Gardens was washed away by surging water.

Jaseni said one raw water intake there was also washed away while two more were completely submerged and choked.

"Water flow is so powerful that till now, it is too dangerous to do any work."

Jaseni said the aqueduct leading to Guillemard Water Treatment Plant in Tanjung Bungah was blocked by landslides and trees that had uprooted.



Water being released at the spillway at Air Itam Dam.

"The water intakes at Sungai Pinang Water Treatment Plant in Titi Kerawang were choked with debris.

"Fallen trees blocked access to the upper intakes.

"The lower intake is cleared but the pipe is still choked," said Jaseni.

Due to the water treatment plants being choked, he said there were unscheduled water supply interruptions in some areas in Jesselton, Pulau Tikus and Jalan Air Terjun for a few hours on Sunday.

"There was an unscheduled water interruption in Bandar Baru Ayer Itam due to power failure.

"Working with Tenaga Nasional Bhd, PBAPP normalised water supply there at 6am on Monday," he said.



One of the landslides along the road leading to Air Itam Dam.



Tarp protecting a slope on the road leading to Air Itam Dam.



Mud left behind by flooding at Penang Botanic Gardens.