

Water crisis warning

> Call for contingency plan to prevent an impending shortage in four states

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GEORGE TOWN: A contingency plan needs to be formulated soon to avoid water crisis in Perlis, Kedah, Penang and northern Perak, said Penang Water Supply

Corporation (PBAPP) CEO Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa.

He said there were clear indications of an impending water shortage in these states if something drastic and fast is not taken by the federal government.

"The water shortage threat

affects all the four states and some four million consumers will be affected," he said, adding that although it rained on Sunday, it did not raise the water level at the dams in Air Itam and Teluk Bahang.

Speaking to reporters after witnessing the Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) signed between PBAPP and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission

(MACC) yesterday, Jaseni said although cloud seeding is being done, a contingency plan is a must to avoid water rationing.

"We must take action now as water rationing will create chaos to domestic and commercial activities," he said when commenting on the statement issued by Kedah state exco Datuk Badrol Hisham on April 17 that the total capacity of five dams in Kedah was still sufficient to supply water for domestic and agriculture use.

Jaseni said the Muda and Beris dams in Kedah supply water to Penang and in accordance with PBAPP calculations there will be a serious deficit of water supply if Kedah continues to use its water resources for irrigation.

On April 5, the water levels at the Muda and Beris dams stood at 44.9% and 37.5% respectively.

He called on Kedah to disclose how many days the two dams can continue to release water into the Muda River based on its present water reserves and what is the state's contingency plan when the water level drops to the minimum.

Jaseni proposed that the federal government must implement large scale cloud seeding and postpone irrigation activities in the northern region, minimise drawdown of reserves from all dams and acknowledge the threat now to persuade consumers to save water.