

15th April 2016

PRESS STATEMENT

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ACT NOW TO PREVENT WATER SHORTAGE IN THE NORTHERN REGION

PENANG, Friday, 15/4/2016: The Federal Government must act promptly and implement large-scale cloud seeding now to prevent a water shortage in the Northern region of Malaysia.

As we understand it, the effective capacity the Beris Dam was 38.3% as at 14th April 2016.

During dry seasons, water is released from the Beris Dam to sustain the Sungai Muda level so that Kedah and Penang can abstract in sufficient quantities to meet dry weather water demands. More than 80% of Penang's raw water is abstracted from this river daily.

According to the current effective capacity, the Beris Dam should have enough water for 37 days.

This means that there should be sufficient water for Kedah and Penang to abstract only until the third week of May 2016.

However, the Meteorological Department has stated that the 'Super El Nino' phenomenon will last until June 2016.

Normally, we would expect significant rainfall in April, after the January - March dry spell. The amount of rainfall in April 2016, to date, is significantly less than the historical averages.

The following table shows the difference in rainfall recorded at Penang's main dams through the years:

| | Average for April 2005-2013 | April 2014 | April 2015 | 1-14 April 2016 |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Air Itam Dam | 244mm | 274mm | 200mm | 59mm |
| Teluk Bahang Dam | 423mm | 239mm | 955mm | 91mm |
| Mengkuang Dam | 298mm | 260mm | 372mm | 23mm |

It is clear that 'Super El Niño' has caused a drastic change in the rainfall pattern for Penang this year. The low rainfall scenario is the same for Perlis and Kedah.

Without some much-needed rainfall from cloud seeding now, the people in Perlis, Kedah and Penang may face a water shortage before the end of the 'Super El Niño' season.

It should be noted that this large-scale cloud seeding exercise is for the benefit of 4 million people in the Northern region of Malaysia.

We hope the Federal Government will act now to avert and avoid a possible damaging and inconvenient scenario in the region.

PENANG DAMS HAVE ENOUGH WATER TO LAST UNTIL JUNE

Meanwhile, the following are effective capacities of Penang's main dams on 14th April 2016:

- Air Itam Dam : 59.9% (59 days)
- Teluk Bahang Dam : 61.5% (187 days)

We are implementing dry weather controls in our distribution systems to minimise the drawdown of Penang's dam reserves. With these controls, our dam reserves are planned to outlast the 'Super El Nino' season.

That said, the raw water source for our biggest and most important water treatment plant, which is the Sungai Dua Water Treatment in Seberang Perai Utara, is Sungai Muda.

As at 14th April 2016, the Sungai Muda level was at 2.44 metres and we were able to abstract sufficient raw water for treatment at Sungai Dua.

However, if the waters of Sungai Muda were to drop below the critical level of 1.50 metres, there is no way for Penang and PBAPP to make up for an 80% shortfall in raw water abstraction.

As such, we hope that the Federal Government will act now to prevent a water shortage in the Northern Region.

Thank You.

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