

19/1/2017

PRESS STATEMENT

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PENANG DAMS FULL BUT STATUS OF KEDAH DAMS WORRYING

- **As at 18/1/2017, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam are 98.1% and 100% respectively.**
- **However, more than 80% of Penang's raw water is sourced from Sungai Muda, a water resource that is shared with Kedah.**
- **PBAPP is concerned with the status of Kedah's Beris Dam and Muda Dam that release water into Sungai Muda during extended dry seasons.**

PENANG, THURSDAY, (19/1/2017): Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) has ensured that Penang's two key dams, the Air Itam Dam and the Teluk Bahang Dam, are full in January 2017. This is in preparation for the anticipated dry season that begins in the first quarter of every year.

The following are the key statistics of these two Penang dams:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Penang Dams</i>	<i>Effective Capacity</i>	<i>No. of Supply Days</i>
18/1/2017	Air Itam Dam	98.1%	96
18/1/2017	Teluk Bahang Dam	100%	304

In line with our "No Water Rationing" policy, we would like to assure Penang's 575,747 registered water consumers that we have done our best to put the state on a strong footing to face the projected dry season in 2017.

Nevertheless, PBAPP is operating in alert mode due to the status of the Beris Dam and Muda Dam in Kedah, which stands at 71.7% and 56.0% as at 18/1/2017.

We are very concerned with the status of these Kedah dams because these are the strategic drought reserves for Sungai Muda. More than 80% of Penang's raw water is extracted from this river daily, and it is a raw water resource we share with Kedah.

As at 18/1/2017, the river level of Sungai Muda, as measured at Penang's Lahar Tiang Intake is 3.0 metres, which is considered to be healthy. That said, the river level can drop significantly, such as during the 6-month long Super El Niño season last year.

During extended dry seasons, raw water stored in the Beris Dam and the Muda Dam is released into Sungai Muda for water supply and irrigation extraction in South Kedah and Penang.

- **Cloud Seeding Must Be Intensified to Prevent a Potential Water Crisis in Perlis, Kedah and Penang**
- **Kedah Must Manage Water Releases Prudently**

On 15/1/2017, the Malaysiakini and Malay Mail Online news portals published reports quoting Kedah State Local Government and Water Resources Committee Chairman Badrol Hisham Hashim as stating that Kedah will seek Federal assistance if water levels in the state's main dams reach critical levels. He was also quoted as saying that the water levels in three main dams were feared to be insufficient for padi cultivation in the coming season.

Preventive action must be initiated now. Cloud seeding efforts should be intensified immediately to maximise the effective capacities of the Beris Dam and the Muda Dam. These dams must be able to support sufficient raw water levels at Sungai Muda for extraction by Kedah and Penang during the dry season ahead.

The Kedah State Government and MADA must also manage the release of water from the dams into Sungai Muda prudently. Kedah must not release "too much water too soon" and cause the dams to run out of water before the rains arrive in April or May 2017.

Kedah and Penang must avoid the potential crisis scenario that we faced last year, when the effective capacities of the Beris Dam and the Muda Dam fell to the critical levels of 24.9% on 7/5/2016 and 14.2% on 2/8/2016 respectively.

We support Kedah's call for urgent and timely Federal action and intervention, as needed, to avoid a water crisis that will affect more than 4 million people, as well as thousands of businesses, in Perlis, Kedah and Penang.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our customers "Gong Xi Fa Cai." Please use water wisely in 2017.

Thank You.

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