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PRESS STATEMENT

by **DATO' IR. JASENI MAIDINSA**  
CEO, PBA Holdings Bhd and PBAPP

## **PENANG CM VISITED AIR ITAM DAM TO REVIEW IMPACT OF CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS**

- **Cloud seeding operations conducted between 25.4.2020 and 27.5.2020 have helped to increase the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam.**
- **However, the effective capacities of both dams are still below the 50% mark.**
- **PBAPP is seeking approval for a second series of cloud seeding operations in June 2020.**

PENANG, Thursday, 28.5.2020: Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow visited the Air Itam Dam yesterday (27.5.2020) to evaluate the impact of cloud seeding operations in April and May 2020.

Accompanying him were State Executive Councillor YB Tuan Zairil Khir Johari, Air Itam State Assemblyman YB Tuan Joseph Ng and Member of Parliament for Bukit Bendera YB Tuan Wong Hon Wai.

On-site, they were briefed on recorded rainfall after 6 cloud seeding operations, as well as the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam, as at 27.5.2020:

Dams	Effective Capacity (%) 25.4.2020	Effective Capacity (%) 27.5.2020	% Increase
Air Itam	32.4	<b>44.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Teluk Bahang	20.4	<b>22.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>

In the period 25.4.2020 – 27.5.2020, PBAPP recorded 283mm of rainfall at the Air Itam Dam and 1,065mm of rainfall at the Teluk Bahang Dam.

Please note that the maximum effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam is 2.16 billion litres while the maximum effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is 18.24 billion litres.

The effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam is 8.4 times more than the effective capacity of the Air Itam Dam. As such, significantly more rainfall is required to refill the Teluk Bahang Dam.

### **Seeking approval for a second series of cloud seeding operations**

While there has been improvements, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are still below normal levels.

In March 2020, the State Government had approved a first series of 10 cloud seeding operations over Penang and Kedah. To date, 6 cloud seeding operations have been carried out, with 4 more to go.

PBAPP is requesting for a second series of 6 additional cloud seeding operations in June 2020 to maximise potential rainfall yield and refill the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam as much as possible.

### **Rationale for more cloud seeding operations**

PBAPP's key rationale for a second series of cloud seeding operations in June 2020 are as follows:

1. **As at 27.5.2020, the effective capacities of both the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are still below the 50% mark.**

The effective capacities have been low since 1.1.2020. Due to climate change, abnormally low volumes of rainfall were recorded in the water catchment areas of Penang Island in the period June 2019 to mid-April 2020.

2. **Without continuing rainfall, the effective capacities of the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam would be further depleted.**

PBAPP has been implementing tight controls to minimise dam drawdowns since 1.1.2020. However, raw water must be drawn down daily from the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam to sustain continuous water supply services in Penang

**3. June 2020 offers a promising window of opportunity for maximising rainfall over Penang’s water catchment areas.**

Thunderstorms and rainy days have been forecast for June 2020, predicting the presence of rain clouds. However, the volume of rainfall is not predictable. Cloud seeding will maximise rainfall yield. By July 2020, there may be less rain clouds present.

**4. The April-May cloud seeding operations have been effective.**

Cloud seeding operations in late-April and May have yielded promising results, and Penang needs more rainfall to refill its key dams.

**5. Assurance of “no water rationing” in the second half of 2020**

The Air Itam Dam must store sufficient raw water to meet all the water supply needs of water consumers in Air Itam and Paya Terubong until the end of the year. Similarly, the effective capacity of the Teluk Bahang Dam must be increased to ensure water supply security in the areas of Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi and Tanjung Bungah until the end of this year.

**6. Assurance of “no water rationing” in 2021**

Looking ahead, Penang and PBAPP must also prepare for the next dry season that will commence from 1.1.2021. As such, we must take advantage of every good opportunity to refill our dams, with as much rain water as possible, from now until the end of 2020.

**7. Sustenance of Penang’s “green state” status in the fight against Covid-19**

Penang and its people require sufficient water supply to continue the fight against Covid-19. As such, water supply sustainability is a critical factor in helping 1.78 million people to stay clean and safe, so as to keep the pandemic at bay.

Led by Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow, Penang has achieved “green state” status in the battle against Covid-19. It is PBAPP’s duty to ensure water supply sufficiency to sustain this “green state” status. Moreover, Penang needs sufficient water supply to facilitate a gradual and healthy economic recovery.

Thank You.

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Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah  
Corporate Communications Unit  
Tel : 04-200 6607  
Email : syarifah@pba.com.my



