

Methods in place to ensure Penang has sufficient water supply



(File pic) Water supply controls are being implemented in Penang. -NSTP/MIKAIL ONG

By Teoh Pei Ying
March 11, 2020 @ 2:23pm

KUALA LUMPUR: Water supply controls are being implemented in Penang to ensure the state has sufficient water throughout the dry season.

PBA Holdings Bhd and Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief

executive officer, Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa, said this was in line with the higher average of daily water consumption.

He said the average daily water consumption for Penang in January was 887 MLD (million litres per day), or 5.2 per cent higher than last year's average daily consumption of 843 MLD.

In a statement today, PBAPP said as of Monday, the capacity at Air Itam dam stood at 42.7 per cent or 922 ML; Teluk Bahang dam (26.8 per cent or 4,880 ML) and Mengkuang dam (70 per cent or 56,038 ML).

Jaseni said the primary cause of the low effective capacity of the Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams were caused by less rainfall in its catchment areas due to climate changes between Mar 1 to 9, compared to the average for the same period in the last three years.

"As and when necessary, PBAPP is drawing down on its strategic drought reserves from the Mengkuang dam to complement raw water abstraction from Sungai Muda.

"However, since the effective capacities of the Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams are low, PBAPP is compelled to minimise raw water drawdowns from these dams.

"PBAPP is also reducing drawdowns from all treated water reservoirs in the state during the hours of midnight to 6am daily. This is to ensure all reservoirs have sufficient treated water to supply during daylight hours," he said.

He said PBAPP is still able to optimise the abstraction of raw water to be pumped to the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

"At the Sungai Dua WTP, water production is being maximised at an average of 968.4 MLD from Feb 1 to Mar 9.

"Treated water from this plant is being distributed to all areas in Seberang Prai and also pumped via twin submarine pipelines to the Bukit Dumbar reservoir and Bukit Dumbar pumping station complex on Penang Island.

"The water is for subsequent distribution to the southern areas of the island," he said.