



## **SAVE WATER NOW, WHEN MILLIONS ARE SUFFERING FROM WATER RATIONING**

PENANG, 19 APRIL 2014: Domestic water consumers in Penang must start saving water now when 6.7 million residents of Selangor are already reportedly experiencing “Stage 4” water rationing.

Ir. Jaseni said Penangites were fortunate to “only imagine” the inconvenience of a cycle of two days of water supply followed by another two days of no water.

“There is no rationing in Penang because PBAPP has been managing water supply in Penang efficiently. Our water loss, or NRW percentage is the lowest in Malaysia. We manage our existing water infrastructure efficiently and carefully to draw, treat and supply sufficient water 24 hours a day. Our submarine pipelines and pipe network allow us to channel water from Seberang Perai to Penang, and from the Teluk Bahang Dam to higher ground in Air Itam,” he said.

However, he added, PBAPP’s efficiency may not be enough to avoid water rationing in Penang in the future. “We may have weathered through March and April, but we are not really safe yet,” he said.

Ir. Jaseni cited three key reasons for this:

- Less rainfall in April 2014 when compared to the past average;
- The level of Sungai Muda and the effective capacities of Penang’s three main dams have not fully “recovered” yet; and
- Penang’s per capita domestic consumption, at 311 l/c/d, is at an all-time high.

### **‘Not Right to Consume 311 l/c/d when there is Water Rationing Elsewhere.’**

“It is not right, nor sustainable, for Penangites to use an average of 311 l/c/d when the people in other states are undergoing water rationing,” he said.

“If you continue to leave taps running and spraying a hose to clean your vehicles and gardens everyday, do not blame us if we have to impose water rationing when we run out of water. On the other hand, if you choose to use water wisely, we will avoid water rationing in Penang for as long as we can,” Ir. Jaseni said, urging the public to adopt water saving tips posted on [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

“To save water automatically, you can also install water saving devices in your home or office. These include shower heads, tap fittings, dual-flush toilet fittings, washing machines and dishwashers. Please check with your plumber, hardware store and electrical appliance shops about water saving devices,” he added.

## Penang's Forward Planning Projects for Water Sufficiency

Ir. Jaseni said that Penang's water demand was 964 million liters per day (MLD) in 2012. "By Year 2020, Penang's water demand is projected to reach 1,260MLD. By Year 2050, it is projected to reach 1,884MLD," he said.

Sungai Muda, he added, could only sufficiently serve as Penang's main raw water resource until Year 2020.

"This is the reason why the Penang State Government is lobbying the Federal Government to implement the Sungai Perak Water Transfer Scheme (SPWTS). The SPWTS has the potential to deliver an additional 1,300MLD for Penang, ensuring water sufficiency until Year 2050.

"However, we are running out of time. The SPWTS has to start now because it will take 7 years to complete, just in time for Year 2020," he said. "At the same time, we will also explore the possibilities of rainwater harvesting, water re-cycling and desalination of seawater."

Ir. Jaseni said rainwater harvesting, water recycling and seawater desalination projects, if applied to complement the SPWTS, would sustain long-term water sufficiency for Penang but the "cost would be high."

He noted that Singapore had implemented such technologies to complement its conventional water treatment works. However, Singapore's average tariff for the first 35,000 liters per month of domestic consumption was RM3.92 per 1,000 liters as compared to PBAPP charging RM0.31 per 1,000 liters.

"The per capita consumption for Singapore in 2013 was 151 l/c/d, as compared to 311 l/c/d for Penang. So, Singapore's per capita consumption is less than half of Penang's, probably because its water tariff is 12 times higher," he said.

Meanwhile, to further reduce Penang's NRW, PBAPP signed a JICA Partnership Programme with Tokyo Suido Services (TSS) on 18 March 2014. Under this programme, TSS experts will train PBAPP personnel in the latest Japanese NRW reduction technologies. TSS has helped Tokyo to lower its NRW percentage from 24% to 3% NRW over 30 years.

"In Tokyo, the NRW percentage 3% but the average tariff for the first 35,000 liters per month of domestic consumption is RM3.68 per 1,000 liters," Ir. Jaseni said.

"So, please think about the future and save water now. As a water supply engineering organisation, PBAPP's fundamental objective is to ensure water supply sufficiency in Penang at all costs. What PBAPP needs to do to fulfil this objective, how much we need to invest, and how often we need to review water tariffs... is up to Penang's water consumers," he said. *(ends)*

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