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PRESS STATEMENT

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PENANG WATER SUPPLY CONTINGENCY PLAN: CLOUD SEEDING FROM LATE APRIL TO MAY 2020

- **Inter-monsoon season timing is ideal to induce rainfall to refill 6 key Penang and Kedah dams.**
- **Targeted areas: Water catchments of the 6 dams and Sungai Muda River Basin.**
- **Penang State Government has approved RM300,000.00 for immediate cloud seeding operations until May 2020.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 28.4.2020: The Penang State Government has approved a plan for cloud seeding operations to be carried out over Penang and Kedah, in the period from late April to May 2020.

A total of 3.95 million people in Penang and Kedah need continuous good water supply as they continue to stay at home in the fight to stop COVID-19. However, the effective capacities of 6 key dams in Penang and Kedah are presently very low due to abnormally low rainfalls since the second half of 2019:

No.	Dam	Effective Capacity %		Variance%
		1.1.2020	27.4.2020	
<u>PENANG</u>				
1.	Air Itam	65.2	33.3	-31.9
2.	Telok Bahang	41.8	20.4	-21.4
3.	Mengkuang	74.9	67.2	-7.7
<u>KEDAH</u>				
4.	Muda	31.9	5.4	-26.5
5.	Beris	92.4	41.7	-50.7
6.	Pedu	52.5	33.9	-18.6

The Muda and Beris Dams in Kedah were built to release water during the dry seasons into Sungai Muda, the primary raw water resource for Penang and Southern Kedah.

Penang State Government Endorsement

On 15.4.2020, Penang Chief Minister YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow announced that the Penang State Government will implement the cloud seeding operations and bear its costs to guarantee continuous water supply and meet the needs of public health and safety to fight the spread of COVID-19. Consequently on 22.4.2020 Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn. Bhd. (PBAPP) tabled the Water Supply Contingency Plan to the Penang State Executive Council (State EXCO), chaired by the Penang Chief Minister.

The primary objective is to urgently implement cloud seeding operations from late April until May to ensure raw water sufficiency for Penang and Kedah, until the next rainy season in August 2020.

The State EXCO approved PBAPP's plan because it is now the inter-monsoon season when rain clouds are present. Therefore the probability of success in inducing rainfall is higher.

The State EXCO also approved a budget of RM300,000.00 to finance the cloud seeding operations.

The cloud seeding operations will be conducted by a company recommended by the Malaysian Meteorological Department (Met Malaysia). Met Malaysia will also provide expert meteorological advice on the cloud seeding operations.

Targeted Results

PBAPP is projecting to increase the effective capacities of Air Itam Dam by 20%, Teluk Bahang Dam by 15% and Mengkuang Dam by 5% from the cloud seeding operations and the current inter-monsoon rainfall in April to May 2020

These additional capacities are required by June 2020 to ensure water supply sufficiency for Penang State until the next inter-monsoon season in August 2020.

At the same time, PBAPP will monitor closely the effective capacities of the Muda, Beris and Pedu Dams in Kedah as well as the river levels of Sungai Muda.

It should be noted that the secondary objective of the cloud seeding operations is to increase the effective capacities of all the 6 key dams in Penang and Kedah by as much as possible in 2020, in preparation for the next dry season in early 2021.

Thank You.

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