

'Penang dams can weather dry spell'

GEORGE TOWN: Despite the current El Nino phenomenon, the water capacity of three dams in Penang is enough to last until March.

The three dams are the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam on the island and Mengkuang Dam on the mainland.

Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Jaseni Maidinsa said although the El Nino phenomenon was expected to reduce rainfall intensity by 20 to 60 per cent beginning this month, Penang would not be affected.

"We have sufficient water supply to weather the dry spell as this is not an unusual phenomenon.

"As it is, our water capacity at the three dams can last until March.

"It is a yearly occurrence and normally, by Christmas, we will ensure the water levels in the dams are at the maximum level come January,"



Farmer Md Isa Zakaria cooling down his buffalo in Langkawi yesterday. Pic by Shahrizal Md Noor

he told the *New Straits Times*.

Jaseni said he expected the dry weather to last until April when the inter-monsoon season would start.

Checks by the NST at several

schools on the island showed that there was a reduction in outdoor activities.

Students, in their sports attire, were spotted carrying out extra-curricular activities along classroom

corridors or under trees.

A spokesperson from a school in Air Itam said teachers were conducting indoor activities to prevent students from being exposed to the sun.