

Boulders break pipelines at Titi Kerawang raw water intake

By **Audrey Dermawan** - August 20, 2021



The mishap, a result of rock falls due to inclement weather, has affected raw water supply to the Sungai Pinang water treatment plant (WTP), which primarily supplies treated water to consumers in the Balik Pulau area. - Pic courtesy of PBAPP

GEORGE TOWN: Two raw water pipelines have been damaged at the Titi Kerawang raw water intake area in Balik Pulau, located in forest hill slopes, prompting emergency waterworks.

The mishap, a result of rock falls due to inclement weather, has affected raw water supply to the Sungai Pinang water treatment plant (WTP), which primarily supplies treated water to consumers in the Balik Pulau area.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said they had mobilised the emergency pipeline repair team to immediately repair the broken raw water pipelines.

Fallen boulders broke a 150mm and a 225mm raw water pipelines.

"These water pipelines channel water from the raw water intakes to the Sungai Pinang WTP which is located about 500m downstream. As such, the Sungai Pinang WTP production capacity is affected by this mishap.

"The Sungai Pinang WTP produces an average of 12.9 million litres per day (MLD) of treated water, primarily for distribution to consumers in the Balik Pulau area.



- Pic courtesy of PBAPP

"As such, PBAPP has activated a contingency plan to pump additional treated water from the Teluk Kumbar and Teluk Bahang pumping stations to minimise the impact of this mishap on water supply services in Balik Pulau," he said today.

At the same time, Jaseni said, PBAPP's water tanker teams were on stand-by to deliver treated water to consumers living on higher ground or in the end-of-pipeline (EOL) areas.

Jaseni said PBAPP's emergency pipeline repair team had been deployed to the forest site to quickly implement the most rational solution in reconnecting the broken pipelines.

"From today, PBAPP is prioritising this pipeline repair works to minimise inconveniences to the people living in Balik Pulau. We intend to repair the pipelines as soon as possible and normalise water supply services in Balik Pulau," he added.

Water consumers who need assistance can contact PBAPP's 24-Hour Call Centre at 04-2558255. On Wednesday, more than 500 houses, involving some 2,000 people in Balik Pulau, Teluk Kumbar and Teluk Bahang, were hit by flash floods following five hours of continuous heavy downpour.

Some of these areas were in metre-deep floodwaters.

Heavy rain also caused some roads, especially in Pulau Betong, Balik Pulau, to be impassable to light vehicles, uprooting trees and causing large boulders to roll down from the hill slopes.