

Proposed Kulim Airport project may jeopardise Penang's water supply - PBAPP

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GEORGE TOWN, Aug 23 -- Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang (PBAPP) warned that the proposed Kulim International Airport (KXP) project in Kuala Muda may jeopardise water supply services in Penang.

PBAPP chief executive officer, Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report revealed that the KXP project might contaminate Sungai Muda, which is the primary water resource for Penang and South Kedah.

He expressed his concern that the KXP project would be located adjacent to two sections of Sungai Muda's riverbanks, which spans a total length of about 14 km.

He also cited the EIA report for the KXP project which states that the water quality would potentially be affected by waste during the construction phase such as earth spoils, cement and construction oils, as well as the waste during the operation such as antifouling agents and spillages from aircraft refuelling.

"Moreover, the Penang government and PBAPP were not consulted or asked for feedback on the potential risks and negative impacts of the KXP project, vis-a-vis water supply services in Penang," he said in a statement.

He stressed that the risk of contaminating Sungai Muda's riverbanks would endanger the water supply services that supported the well-being of 1.78 million people and thousands of businesses operating in Penang.

He suggested that the proposed KXP project be relocated to a safer location, away from the banks of Sungai Muda to prevent the water supply from being contaminated.

"The proposed location of the Kulim Airport is not ideal, as its location, along the riverbanks of Sungai Muda, presents direct and unnecessary risks for water supply operations in Penang and South Kedah," he said.