

May 15, 2023

Penang water supply almost normal, says CM



KEPALA BATAS: Only 10 per cent of the total 400,000 Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) consumers, affected by service disruption since yesterday morning, still have dry taps.

The affected consumers are in the southwest district of Penang island, which included Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Teluk Kumbar, and the Penang International Airport

Damage to the Sungai Muda barrage gate in Kedah resulted in a sudden drop in water level at Sungai Muda, which affected more than 600,000 consumers all over Penang as well as Kuala Muda, Kulim and Baling in Kedah.

He said it would take possibly until Wednesday for supply to normalise in the southwest district as some of the premises were on high ground.

"This is unexpected. The mishap occurred in Kedah but we felt the full impact of it yesterday.

"This shows how vulnerable the situation is.

"PBAPP responded quickly to the emergency. Within 36 hours, the majority of the people of Penang are enjoying the benefits," he said after a visit to the Lahar Tiang Raw Water Intake here this afternoon.

Present were PBAPP chief executive officer K. Pathmanathan and state Drainage and Irrigation Department director Mohd Nazri Yasmin.

Checks showed the Sungai Muda River level (at the Lahar Tiang Raw Water Intake) was at 1.56m today compared with 0.4m yesterday.

The raw water abstraction operations was at 83 per cent while water production at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant was back to 100 per cent.

Chow urged the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) to conduct a full probe into the mishap.

"We would like to know for sure because about 400,000 water consumers in Penang suffered as a result of this mishap.

"To avoid any recurrence, SPAN should get the relevant authorities to check all the systems in the barrages in Kedah, as well as here, to see if there is anything else that needs to be replaced or upgraded. This is called preventive maintenance.

"We also call on the federal government to set up the proposed Ulu Muda Basin Authority (UMBA), which includes Sungai Muda, for water supply and irrigation.

"We must not ignore the importance of conserving this river basin properly for the good of our people, our economies and the future of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER)," he added.