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## Sungai Muda water supply expected to last 2 months



*Water supply from Sungai Muda is expected to last around two months if there are no further large-scale releases, says Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP). — PIC FROM PBAPP PENANG'S FB*

GEORGE TOWN: Water supply from Sungai Muda is expected to last around two months if there are no further large-scale releases, says Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP).

Its chief executive officer Datuk K. Pathmanathan said Penang's water supply was projected to remain stable next month and May despite hot and dry weather, provided there were no aggressive releases from the river.

He said that the capacity of Muda Dam had fallen to a critical 7.19 per cent as of March 28, after dropping 71.78 per cent in just 51 days due to releases for padi irrigation, leaving the dam unable to discharge any additional water.

Beris Dam, meanwhile, stood at 58.06 per cent, declining at an average rate of 0.56 per cent or 685 million litres per day, with remaining reserves expected to last about 68 days until mid- or late June.

"Based on current rates, the remaining 71,065 million litres of storage is expected to last roughly 68 days, reaching the critical 20 per cent level by mid- to late June 2026," he said.

Pathmanathan added: "Penang's water supply is not expected to be affected in the immediate term. However, any further large releases from Sungai Muda could accelerate the depletion of Beris Dam and alter current projections."

Sungai Muda remains Penang's main raw water source, with around 1,000 million litres per day (MLD) abstracted for treatment at the Sungai Dua plant, supplying some 465,000 consumers across the state.

He said PBAPP had activated its Sungai Muda Contingency Plan 2026 since late last month, which includes maximising abstraction, controlled releases from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam capped at 600 MLD, and continued implementation of the Double Dam Defence Programme.

The programme involves pumping about 407 MLD of treated water from Sungai Dua to the island to sustain Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams.

However, Pathmanathan said that these measures were not a comprehensive solution, as supply capacity remains below optimal treatment requirements.

"We urge consumers to use water prudently amid uncertain rainfall, with domestic use accounting for 55.7 per cent of total demand last year," he added.

In 2025, domestic consumption accounted for 55.7 per cent, or 482 MLD, of Penang's total water usage of 865 MLD.