

16/5/2023

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

by YAB TUAN CHOW KON YEOW  
CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG

### **14.5.2023 SUNGAI MUDA INCIDENT: “FAULTY BARRAGE” THAT CAUSED WATER SUPPLY ISSUE IN PENANG IS IN KEDAH (NOT IN PENANG)**

- **JPS has reported to Lembaga Sumber Air Negeri Kedah stating that the automated system for a barrage in Kedah that was installed in 2014 had “opened a (water) gate without warning” causing the river level to drop from 1.85m to 0.67m.**

PENANG, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023: The Penang State Government and Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) would like to state the following facts clearly:

1. **The “faulty barrage” that triggered off the water supply issue in Penang on 14.5.2023 is located in Kedah, and not in Penang.**
2. On 14.5.2023, a division of the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran - JPS) called “Pengurusan Lembangan Sungai Muda” (PLSM) issued an official letter to the “Lembaga Sumber Air Negeri Kedah” (LSANK) stating that the “sudden extreme drop in the level of Sungai Muda” was caused by an unforeseen breakdown. This letter was addressed to LSANK in Kedah and not to any authority in Penang.
3. PLSM’s letter to LSANK stated that the opening and closing of the Sungai Muda Barrage gates are operated through an automated SCADA system. On 8.30pm on 13.5.2023, the system “opened” a gate and left it open for 11 hours. At 7.30am, PLSM noted that the Sungai Muda River level dropped to 0.67m.
4. At 7.30am on 14.5.2023, PLSM closed the gate manually. From 8.45am, the Beris Dam in Kedah had to start releasing 15 cumecs of water to raise the river level.

The Penang State Government would like to point out the following:

- **The PLSM letter was addressed to LSANK in Kedah and not to anyone in Penang.**

- **The manual closing of the gate was carried out by PLSM in Kedah and not PBAPP or any other authority in Penang.**
- **There are two barrages located about 9km from the Sungai Muda river mouth and about 5km from PBAPP's Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Perai. The first 1.8m barrage, built in 1973, is located in Penang territory. The second 2.1m barrage stands in Kedah territory.**
- **The barrage that "failed" on 14.5.2023 is located in Kedah territory.**

In an online media report published on 15.5.2023, the Kedah Menteri Besar (MB) was quoted as saying that he "urged Penang to repair a faulty barrage gate at the neighbouring state's side of Sungai Muda which led to massive supply disruptions in southern Kedah and some parts of Seberang Prai mainland."

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/05/909645/sanusi-tells-penang-govt-fix-faulty-sg-muda-barrage-gate>

This statement is wrong and misleading.

**If the Kedah MB truly made this statement, he should get his facts right, issue a correct statement and publicly apologise to Penang and its people.**

**If the Kedah MB was misquoted in the news report, he should address the issue with the media organisation that published the news and ask for a correction to be published.**

Please do not try to confuse or mislead the people of Penang with false or fake news. On 14.5.2023, a mishap in Kedah caused suffering for 400,000 water consumers in Penang. That is a fact.

Thank You.

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