

2.10.2024
Media Release

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1.10.2024 BALING FLOODS IN KEDAH: PBAPP TOOK ACTION TO AVERT A WATER SUPPLY ISSUE IN PENANG

- **Flooding in Baling caused raw water from Sungai Muda to be abnormally turbid or murky again.**
- **PBAPP drew down water from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam to “dilute” the raw water entering the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant.**

PENANG, Wednesday, 2.10.2024: As at 1.00am today, PBAPP has managed to avert an unscheduled water supply interruption (UWSI) in Penang arising from floods reported in Baling, Kedah, on 1.10.2024.

Yesterday's floods in Baling washed down debris and detritus into Sungai Muda, causing the river water to become abnormally turbid or murky at PBAPP's Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Perai, Penang. At 5.00pm yesterday, the river water turbidity level was 400 NTU (nephelometric turbidity units) at Lahar Tiang. The normal turbidity level is 200 NTU.

Sungai Muda is Penang's primary raw water resource. PBAPP abstracts water from this river daily for pumping to the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Penang's largest and most important WTP.

Following news reports of flash floods in Baling yesterday and an alert message from the National Water Services Commission (SPAN), PBAPP activated its emergency response plan (ERP) in regard to Sungai Muda:

PBAPP ERP: 1.10.2024 Baling Floods (Kedah)	
Time and date	Action and report
8 am, 1.10.2024	Commencement of hourly monitoring of raw water turbidity level of Sungai Muda at Lahar Tiang Intake (Penang) and Kuala Ketil (24km upstream in Kedah).
3.00pm-6.00pm, 1.10.2024	Draw down of raw water from 72MLD – 240 MLD from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD). The objective is to “dilute” the turbidity of raw water at the point of entry to the Sungai Dua WTP (the balancing pond).

5.00pm, 1.10.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity of Sungai Muda water at the Lahar Tiang Intake reaches 400 NTUs. • No major issues at the Sungai Dua WTP. It is still able to produce treated water at an optimal capacity.
2.00am, 2.10.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity of Sungai Muda water at Lahar Tiang Intake was above 500 NTU.
8.00am, 2.10.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity of Sungai Muda water at Lahar Tiang Intake was above 600 NTU
10.00am, 2.10.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity of Sungai Muda water at Lahar Tiang Intake was above 700 NTU

Lessons learnt from previous mishap

On 6.7.2022, a previous Baling flood incident caused the turbidity of Sungai Muda water to shoot up to 3,000 NTU at Lahar Tiang. The mishap forced PBAPP to reduce raw water abstraction from Sungai Muda, which, in turn, caused treated water production at the Sungai Dua to drop. Insufficient treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP led to an UWSI in Penang that affected about 465,000 water consumers.

In comparison, there is no UWSI today, 24 hours after the 1.10.2024 Baling floods were reported.

Nevertheless, PBAPP will continue to implement the ERP for the next 48 hours as a “safety measure”, in case there is a sudden unforeseen spike in the turbidity of the raw water from Sungai Muda.

Thank You.

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