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 Media Release

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**PBAPP ACTIVATES SUNGAI MUDA CONTINGENCY PLAN:  
 PLEASE USE WATER WISELY**

- **Muda Dam in Kedah reportedly dropped to 20% on 20.2.2026.**
- **Beris Dam in Kedah reported to be at 78.1% on 16.2.2026.**
- **These 2 dams release water into Sungai Muda during dry seasons.**
- **PBAPP abstracted an average of 1,000 MLD of raw water from Sungai Muda in 2025 to produce about 85.5% of the treated water that was supplied in Penang.**

PENANG, Monday, 23.2.2026: PBAPP is activating its Sungai Muda Contingency Plan 2026 (SMCP 2026) to ensure water supply sufficiency in Penang.

This action is prompted by the reported statuses of the 2 dams in Kedah that release water into Sungai Muda (Penang's primary raw water resource) on 20.2.2026:

Sungai Muda Dams	Maximum capacity: million litres (ML)	Percentage capacity		Difference
Muda Dam	100,000	84.6% (1.1.2026)	<b>20.0%</b> <b>(20.2.2026)</b>	<b>64.6%</b>
Beris Dam	120,000	100.0% (1.1.2026)	<b>78.1%</b> <b>(16.2.2026)</b>	<b>21.9%</b>
Total	220,000			

Due to the hot and dry season, as well as aggressive irrigation drawdown activities since 1.1.2026, the capacity of the Muda Dam has dropped to a critical level. PBAPP foresees that this dam will be unable to release significant volumes of raw water into Sungai Muda system soon, possibly by early March 2026.

When the Muda Dam is compromised, the reserves of the Beris Dam will be called into play. With a reported capacity of 78.1% on 16.2.2026, this dam should be able to support Kedah and Penang's water supply needs until the forecasted April 2026 rainy season.

However, the following factors are still uncertain:

- The actual timing of the next anticipated rainy season due to climate change.

- The volume of rainfall during the next rainy season and the actual impacts on the capacities of the Muda Dam and Beris Dam in Kedah.
- The statuses of these 2 Sungai Muda dams for the rest of the year.

### **PBAPP response: Sungai Muda Contingency Plan 2026 (SMCP 2026)**

PBAPP's SMCP 2026 was devised to minimise the impact of a potential Sungai Muda crisis for Penang, in view of the sharp drop in the capacity of the Muda Dam since 1.1.2026.

The key elements of the SMCP 2026 are:

1. Abstraction of as much raw water from Sungai Muda as possible (so long as the river level does not dip below 1.5m at the Lahar Tiang Intake) to support treated water production at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP). In 2025, PBAPP abstracted about 1,000 million litres per day (MLD) from Sungai Muda in order for the Sungai Dua WTP to produce sufficient treated water for about 465,000 water consumers in its service areas in Seberang Perai and Penang Island.
2. Strategic raw water drawdowns from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) in Seberang Perai Tengah when there is a shortfall of raw water from Sungai Muda. The maximum EMD drawdown capacity is 600 MLD.
3. Continuous implementation of the Double Dam Defence on Penang Island Programme (D<sup>3</sup>PI Programme) by continuously pumping about 407 MLD of treated water from Sungai Dua to the island to ensure that the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam do not run dry.

If things run according to plan, the SMCP 2026 will allow Penang to weather through 2026 without a water supply crisis, as long as PBAPP is able to abstract at least 50% of the volume of raw water that it abstracted in 2025 (500 MLD).

Please note that the SMCP 2026 may not completely “insulate Penang” from a water crisis if PBAPP is unable to abstract any water from Sungai Muda. This is because the maximum drawdown capacity from the EMD is 600 MLD while the Sungai Dua WTP needs about 1,000 MLD of raw water to function optimally.

The success of the SMCP 2026 will also be dependent on the availability of raw water from the EMD. As at 22.2.2026, the effective capacity of the 86,400 ML EMD was 91.5%.

## Public cooperation and participation: Use water wisely

As at 22.2.2026, Penang's water supply status is still stable, with some sporadic rainfall bolstering dam effective capacities.

Key dams in Penang	Effective capacity		Difference	Rainfall 1 – 22.2.2026
	1.1.2026	<b>22.2.2026</b>		
1. Air Itam Dam	93.9%	<b>84.1%</b>	9.8%	84 mm
2. Teluk Bahang Dam	99.0%	<b>91.89%</b>	7.11%	88.5 mm
3. Expanded Mengkuang Dam	92.8%	<b>91.5%</b>	_1.3%	276 mm

However, due to climate change, there are uncertainties surrounding the forecasted April rainy season and the projected statuses of the 2 Sungai Muda dams in Kedah later in 2026.

As such, PBAPP would like to seek the support and cooperation of Penang water consumers to kindly use water wisely during this Chinese New Year season and Ramadan month.

In 2025, domestic water consumption accounted for about 55.7% (482 MLD) of the total consumption of water in Penang (865 MLD).

Accordingly, if Penang consumers can use less less water at home, they will play a significant role in ensuring that the state has enough water for all throughout this year.

For convenient water saving tips, please visit [www.pba.com.my](http://www.pba.com.my).

Thank You.

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