

24.4.2026
Media Release

DATO' IR. PATHMANATHAN K.
CEO, PBAHB and PBAPP.

PENANG WATER SUPPLY ALERT: SUNGAI MUDA LEVEL DROPPED TO “DANGER LEVEL” OF 1.27M AT LAHAR TIANG YESTERDAY

- **PBAPP raw water abstraction limited to about 1,000 MLD from the river from 4.30pm on 23.4.2026 (yesterday). Normal abstraction: 1,300 MLD.**
- **PBAPP’s Sungai Muda Contingency Plan (SMCP) is active: 300 MLD drawdown from Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) to ensure sufficient raw water is available to the Sungai Muda Water Treatment Plant (WTP).**
- **No disruption of water supply for 465,000 consumers in the service areas of the Sungai Dua WTP for now.**

PENANG, Friday, 24.4.2026: PBAPP reacted promptly to a sudden drop in the Sungai Muda river level yesterday to avoid a water supply disruption in Penang.

At about 4.30pm on 23.3.2026, the river level dropped to 1.27m at Penang’s Lahar Tiang Intake. The “safe level” is 2.0m.

Under normal conditions, PBAPP abstracts about 1,300 million litres per day (MLD) of raw water from Sungai Muda for use at the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP). From 4.30pm yesterday, PBAPP’s abstraction capacity was limited to 1,000 MLD, or 30% below the normal level due to the abnormally low river level.

In accordance to its Sungai Muda Contingency Plan (SMCP), PBAPP immediately began to draw down water from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) to supplement raw water supply to the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

The Sungai Dua WTP is the largest and most important WTP in Penang. It produced an average of 1,100 MLD of treated water that was supplied to water consumers in all 5 districts in Penang.

In short, the activation of the SMCP yesterday averted a water supply issue in Penang that would have potentially affected water consumers in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU), Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT), Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS), Daerah Barat Daya (DBD) and Daerah Timur Laut (DTL).

Likely Cause

The likely cause of this incident are irrigation drawdowns in Kedah, upstream of the Lahar Tiang Intake.

PBAPP was not informed about this measure ahead of time.

As of 23.4.2026, the capacity of the Beris Dam (which is releasing water into the Sungai Muda system) was 49.6%. Its release rate was reportedly 864 MLD.

At this 864 MLD rate, the remaining reserves of the Beris Dam may last 70 days before it hits the critical level of 20%.

The other major dam that was built to release water into the Sungai Muda system is the Muda Dam. The reserves of the Muda Dam has been depleted to 9.5% (as at 23.4.2026). This dam may not release more water into the Sungai Muda system for now.

SPAN & PETRA Intervention Needed

PBAPP would like to call on SPAN and PETRA to urgently intervene on the management of the Sungai Muda system at this point in time.

The security of water supply services in Penang and Kedah must be prioritised over irrigation matters under the present circumstances.

Without a large volume of rainfall, the Beris Dam and Muda Dam may not be refilled to support the Sungai Muda system.

Sungai Muda is Penang's one and only major raw water resource. If PBAPP cannot abstract raw water from this river daily, there will be a major state-wide water supply disruption in Penang that will affect 465,000 water consumers, including factories and hotels.

Moreover, there are 10 Kedah WTPs which are also dependent on raw water releases from the Beris Dam, upstream of the Lahar Tiang Intake in Penang.

PBAPP Reactions

On its part, PBAPP will follow its SMCP protocols to abstract as much raw water as possible from Sungai Muda and "make up" any shortfall with drawdowns the reserves from the EMD.

However, it should be noted that the EMD's maximum draw down capacity is presently 600 MLD.

The Sungai Dua WTP needs about 1,300 MLD of raw water daily to produce sufficient treated water for supply in its service areas.

In other words, PBAPP will fight to sustain continuing good water services in Penang under the present circumstances but its defensive manoeuvres will be limited by the maximum drawdown capacity of the EMD.

As such, PBAPP would like to appeal to SPAN and PETRA to take action and limit irrigation drawdowns from the Sungai Muda system now. The preservation of continuing good water supply for the people must be the top priority until the rains arrive to refill the Beris Dam and Muda Dam.

Thank You.

Issued by : Syarifah Nasywa bt Syed Feisal Barakbah
Corporate Communications Section
Email : syarifah@pba.com.my