Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd
199901001061 (475961-X)
Memenuhi segala keperluan bekalan air anda
Meeting all your water supply needs

30.3.2026
Media Release

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

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE:
ENOUGH WATER FROM SUNGAI MUDA FOR 2 MONTHS IF THERE ARE NO MORE BIG DRAWDOWNS

- **2 dams in Kedah release water into Sungai Muda during dry seasons.**
- **Muda Dam capacity was at 7.19% on 28.3.2026.**
- **Beris Dam capacity was at 58.06% on 28.3.2026.**

PENANG, Monday, 30.3.2026: Despite hot and dry weather, water supply services in Penang should be stable in April and May 2026 provided there are no more aggressive drawdowns from Sungai Muda.

The capacity of the 2 Kedah dams that are built to release raw water into Sungai Muda during hot and dry seasons are as follows:

Sungai Muda Dams	Max. capacity: million litres (ML)	Capacity %		
		1.1.2026	20.2.2026	**28.3.2026**
Muda Dam	160,000	84.6%	20.0%	**7.19%**
Beris Dam	122,400	100.0%	78.1%	**58.06%**
Total	282,400			

Muda Dam: The maximum capacity of the Muda Dam (160,000 ML) is about 74 times more than that of the Air Itam Dam (2,159 ML). Its capacity dropped sharply by 71.78% (about 114,800 ML) in just 51 days from 1.1.2026 to 20.2.2026, due to the release of water to support aggressive irrigation drawdowns for padi planting. As at 28.3.2026, the capacity of the Muda Dam was at a critical level of 7.19%. It can no longer release more water into Sungai Muda.

Beris Dam: Beris Dam: The capacity of the 122,400 ML Beris Dam was at 100% on 1.1.2026. It dropped to 78.1% on 20.2.2026. In the period from 20.2.2026 to 28.3.2026, its capacity was reduced from 78.1% to 58.06% in 36 days. This reflects an average dip of 0.56% per day (685MLD). At this dipping level of 685 MLD, the remaining reserves of the Beris Dam (71,065ML) should be able to last for about 68 days until the 20% critical level is reached in mid-or late June 2026.

As such, water supply in Penang is not under immediate threat, provided there are no more similar drawdowns from Sungai Muda in April and May 2026 (that may cause the reserves of the Beris Dam to be depleted prematurely).

In the current Sungai Muda scenario, water supply in Penang and Kedah should be prioritised until the Muda Dam and Beris Dam capacities recover to safe levels.

Significance of Sungai Muda

Sungai Muda is Penang's primary raw water resource. It is a water resource that Penang shares with Kedah.

On average, PBAPP abstracts about 1,000 million litres per day (MLD) of raw water from Sungai Muda at the Lahar Tiang Intake in Seberang Perai Utara (SPU) for treatment in the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

Please note that the Lahar Tiang Intake is downstream of 14 Kedah WTPs and irrigation intakes.

In 2025, an average of 1,033MLD of treated water from the Sungai Dua WTP was supplied to about 465,000 water consumers in all 5 districts in Penang: SPU, Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT), Seberang Perai Selatan (SPS) on the mainland, as well as Daerah Barat Daya (DBD) and Daerah Timur Laut (DTL) on the island.

PBAPP's Sungai Muda Contingency Plan 2026 (SMCP 2026)

Since late February 2026, PBAPP has activated its Sungai Muda Contingency Plan 2026 (SMCP 2026) after the Muda Dam's capacity dropped to the 20% critical level.

The key elements of the SMCP 2026 are:

1. Abstraction of as much raw water from Sungai Muda as possible daily to support optimal treated water production at Sungai Dua.

2. Strategic drawdowns from the Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD) when there is a shortfall of raw water from Sungai Muda. The maximum EMD drawdown capacity is capped at 600 MLD.

3. Continuous implementation of the Double Dam Defence on Penang Island Programme (D^3PI 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.

The SMCP 2026 should help Penang to weather through 2026. However, it is not a "complete" solution because the maximum drawdown from the EMD is 600 MLD while the Sungai Dua WTP needs about 1,000 MLD of raw water to function optimally.

Penang dam statuses

PBAPP has been carefully managing the effective capacities of Penang's 3 key dams since 1.1.2023 to avoid water shortages:

Penang dams		Effective capacity		Rainfall in WCAs
		1.1.2026	**28.3.2026**	1.1.2026 – 28.3.2026
1.	Air Itam Dam	93.9%	**69.38%**	130mm
2.	Teluk Bahang Dam	99.0%	**84.05%**	202.5mm
3.	Expanded Mengkuang Dam (EMD)	92.8%	**91.24%**	351mm

Kindly note that the Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam are being "supported" by the D^3PI Programme thus far. The success of this programme largely hinges on the availability of sufficient raw water from Sungai Muda daily.

Please use water wisely until the next rainy season

PBAPP would like to seek the kind cooperation of all Penang water consumers to use water wisely. Due to climate change, we are uncertain when the next rainy season will arrive to "recharge" the reserves of the key dams in Penang and Kedah to safe levels.

In 2025, domestic water consumption accounted for about 55.7% (482 MLD) of the total consumption of water in Penang (865 MLD). Penang domestic water consumers should use less water at home now to ensure that we have enough water to support all socioeconomic activities, even during prolonged hot and dry seasons.

For convenient water saving tips, please visit www.pba.com.my.

Thank You.

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

28.3.2026 | Kapasiti efektif Empangan Muda @ 7.19% | Effective capacity of Muda Dam @ 7.19%.

28.3.2026 | Kapasiti efektif Empangan Beris @ 58.06% | Effective capacity of Beris Dam @ 58.06%.