

## **Penang asks Kedah to release less water into Sungai Muda to prevent wastage**

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GEORGE TOWN, April 23 — Penang today asked the Kedah state government to release less water into Sungai Muda daily in order to cater only for water supply needs in Kedah and Penang.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said this was why Penang was asking for a postponement of irrigation activities in Kedah.

He said without irrigation concerns, the Muda Dam and the Beris Dam might release less water into Sungai Muda.

“Actually Penang wants to tell Kedah to release less water. We do not want to waste water. We do not want more water, we are okay because the Sungai Muda level is above two metres.

“So, we never want more water but we are telling them release less water. This is what we practise since January,” he told reporters at the opening ceremony of the World Water Day Celebration 2016 by Deputy Chief Minister II Prof Dr P.Ramasamy at the Air Itam Dam, here.

Jaseni was commenting on the statement by Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah that Penang should ask Kedah to release more water via proper channels.

He said PBAPP had not used any water from the Mengkuang Dam since February 2014 after the dam was handed over to the federal government to facilitate the expansion project.

He said the Mengkuang Dam expansion project had not been completed by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, besides the dam was still being managed and had not been handed back to the Penang state government.

“I want to reiterate that there is no water crisis in Penang and the northern region yet. Yesterday, the Sungai Muda level was 2.54 metres and PBAPP was able to obtain sufficient raw water for Penang’s use,” he said.

As such, Jaseni hoped the federal government could implement preventive measures to address the threat of a potential Super El Nino water crisis that threatened more than four million people in northern region states.

“We also continue to seek the cooperation of Penang water consumers to save water and use it wisely,” he added. — Bernama