

## Kedah govt should seek federal compensation: PBAPP

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**GEORGE TOWN:** The Penang government agrees that the Kedah administration should seek federal compensation for their part in conserving the water catchments in the Ulu Muda forest.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) CEO Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the Penang government and PBAPP will support any bid by Kedah to do so for the benefit of the people in the country's northern region.

He, however, stressed that compensation should only be sought after the Ulu Muda water catchments are gazetted.

"Compensation is only relevant and due after the Ulu Muda catchments are properly surveyed, mapped out, gazetted and protected by law," he told a press conference today after attending the PBAPP annual general meeting.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah on Sunday said his government was in the process of getting compensation as the forests there cannot be tapped since water catchment areas needed to be preserved.

Jaseni said Penang had no plans to follow Kedah, which plans to build a new dam in Pendang, to resolve water supply issues.

He said water supply and sustainably issues should be addressed holistically by treating Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Northern Perak as a whole region.

"We have states which are water stressed and states with a lot of water, any planing has to take into account the entire region to come up with a economically viable solution," he said.

Meanwhile, PBA Holdings Bhd, the holding company of PBAPP, achieved a profit after tax of RM38 million in 2015 compared to RM24.76 million in 2014.

Its sale of water generated revenue of RM300.325 million in 2015 compared to RM261.017 million in 2014, an increase of 15.06%.

A final single tier dividend of 4% for the year in review was approved at the AGM with the final dividend pay being RM6.62 million.