

## **PBAPP wants federal interference to stop ulu muda logging activities**

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GEORGETOWN: The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) wants federal agencies to take a proactive measure to stop logging activities in the Ulu Muda forest reserve in Kedah.

Its chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said this forest reserve serves as the primary water catchment area for Sungai Muda – the main source of raw water for south Kedah and Penang.

"If the forest reserve is further damaged or destroyed, there will be serious consequences in terms of the availability of sufficient raw water from the river," he told reporters during lunch-break of the state assembly sitting here today.

He said if the quality of raw water from Sungai Muda was compromised, it will also threaten the quality of treated water supplied in south Kedah and Penang.

It was reported on Monday the Kedah Water Supply, Water Resources and Energy committee chairman Datuk Badrol Hisham Hashim said the state government was aware of logging in Ulu Muda and those found guilty of carrying out logging illegally would be banned immediately.

Jaseni urged federal agencies such as the National Water Services Commission and Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry to act on logging activities as it will affect the livelihood of more than two million people in south Kedah and Penang.

"Due to its great value as a water catchment, natural heritage area and a potential adventure tourism destination in the northern region, the Ulu Muda forest reserve, must be protected by law immediately," he said.

He added the current water level at Air Itam and Teluk Bahang dams was still below the expected 60% level and hoped rain would continue to fall and fill the dams. — Bernama