

# \$236mil grant for pipeline project

MALACCA, Wed. — The Cabinet today confirmed a revised allocation of \$236 million for the construction of a pipeline to enable Malacca to get water from the Muar River.

The Prime Minister said the project would be implemented soon to solve the state's water crisis.

The original estimate for the 60km pipeline was \$250 million.

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government realised that the state and its people were facing difficulties as a result of a water shortage.

On the proposed move to place water resources under the Federal Government, he said the matter would be discussed by the mentris besar and chief ministers at their next meeting.

"They will study the proposal and deal with Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie," he added.

Dr Mahathir commended the Malacca Government for its initiative in implementing infrastructure and tourism projects, **using its own funds.**

Earlier, Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tambak said the state might **privatise** the proposed new coastal expressway from Jalan Parameswara to Tranquerah.

He said the company which would be contracted to construct the project may impose toll on the expressway.

The Government is also planning to create a natural marina off the coast here by constructing wave-breakers between Pulau Jawa and Pulau Pangang.

If successful, it would be one of the largest natural marinas in the world.

It could become a yachting and marine centre of the region, Tan Sri Rahim said.