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#### Boosting water supply in Tioman

KUANTAN, Mon. - Water woes in Pulau Tioman are expected to ease when the State Water Supply Department takes over the management of water supply on the island.

Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Hasan Arifin said today the department would spend RM1.8 million to upgrade the waterworks infrastructure.

Hasan was speaking to reporters after opening a seminar on entrepreneurship franchise.

The island has a population of 4,000 and the water supply is barely enough to cope with the demand, especially with the mushrooming of new hotels.

Some areas have started experiencing water shortage.

Hasan said at present, water supply on the island came under the rural water supply development programme.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, during his visit to the island last week, said the water shortage had to be dealt with first before further developments were carried out on the resort island.

He also said there were plans to build dams at two of the six rivers on the island to boost water output.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had, during a visit to Pulau Tioman in February, directed the Pahang Government to further develop the island, including building a town. Dr Mahathir also directed the construction of a road linking the east and west of the island and a marina.

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