

10/07/1997

MB: Solve water woes on Pulau Tioman first

TIOMAN, Wed. - The water shortage at Pulau Tioman has to be overcome before other developments could be brought to the resort island.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said the existing water supply capacity was barely enough to meet the present needs.

"If developments are carried out without first attending to water problems, then the island will face a water crisis," he said after a dialogue with Pulau Tioman residents yesterday.

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

He added the water supply project would come under the development master plan for Pulau Tioman.

Khalil was asked on how soon development of the island could be achieved.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, during a private visit to Pulau Tioman in February, had 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 sides of the island and a marina.

Khalil said at present, individual departments had their own plans for the island.

"We will merge all the plans and come up with a master plan," he added.

He also called on the residents to co-operate with the State Government to pave the way for development.

"Land acquisition is inevitable and they should give their consent," Khalil said.

He also suggested that residents adopt a smart partnership concept under which they could own an equity in a joint venture company.

Khalil also urged the 4,000 residents not to indulge in land speculation as costly land would drive away investors.

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