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Samy - Water

DR MAHATHIR CHAIRS WATER COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 29

KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- The National Water Council will hold its first meeting on June 29 to discuss a long-term strategy to ensure sufficient water supply for the country in the next 25 years.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said the meeting, to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department here, would be attended by all Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.

The council was expected to prepare a paper on the country's future water supply needs and anticipated problems, he said.

" We will discuss the problems and set our target so that the country will not face water shortage in the long-term," Samy Vellu told Bernama.

The minister said the council was also expected to discuss inter-state water sale.

" We will discuss the rates to be charged," he said.

Samy Vellu said the state leaders would be briefed on the objective of the council, its role in overcoming future water crises and about water sources.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of the council on April 29 to plan and coordinate water supply among states in the event of water crises.

Samy Vellu reiterated that the council would not take over the rights of water management from any state but would help states affected by water shortage to obtain supply from those with surplus water.

" We will explain to them that the council will only act as body to coordinate the transfer of water supply from states," he said.

He said the council would also discuss the current water woes, including the problems faced by the affected states.

" There has been no rain over the last few days and we need to come out with solutions," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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