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Dr M to chair first water council meeting

Zubaidah Abu Bakar

IPOH, Sun. - Tomorrow's inaugural National Water Council meeting will decide under which ministry the council will be placed apart from deliberating on a long-term strategy to ensure sufficient water supply for the country.

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, will also hear views on inter-State water transfer from all Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.

"Besides setting our target on water needs and anticipating future problems, the meeting will also discuss inter-State water sale and charges.

"We will plan a strategy for sufficient water supply for the next 25 years because the country cannot afford to be hit by a similar water shortage problem again," he told reporters after opening the 34th annual general meeting of Koperasi Guru-Guru Sekolah India Perak Berhad today.

Samy Vellu said two papers, including one prepared by a consultant on existing water resources, highlighting the possibility of utilising alternative water sources in each State, would be tabled at the meeting.

The other paper will explain why the council was set up and outline its functions.

The Cabinet had approved the establishment of the council on April 29 to plan and co-ordinate water supply among States in the event of water shortages.

This followed the acute water shortage problems faced by residents in the Klang Valley.

Samy Vellu said the Government viewed the water shortage problems seriously and hoped the setting up of the council will prevent a similar problem in future.

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