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Fomca calls for national policy on issue

SEREMBAN, Wed. - The Federation of Malaysian Consumers' Associations has called on the Federal Government to draw up a national water policy following support by almost all States to set up the National Water Council.

Fomca president Hamdan Adnan said today the formation of the NWC should be followed by a NWP which emphasises on the smooth distribution of water supply.

The policy should stress the need for the authorities to keep the public well informed on the action and measures to be taken to address a water crisis.

"This way consumers' interest will be protected and that they will not be left high and dry during a crisis," he said.

Hamdan said Fomca supported Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call on the urgent need to set up the council to co-ordinate water supply management nationwide.

"This way the problem of water faced by one State will be immediately addressed under the system by other States with excess water," he said.

The current drought supposedly caused by the El Nino phenomenon had also resulted in uncertain weather conditions.

"Since 95 per cent of the country's water are from surface water, we have to find other alternative sources like ground water to supplement our long-term needs," he added.

The use of ground water is not new as it widely used in Europe and the United States, especially in California, he said.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Graduates Association of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur called on the Federal Government to take over water management nationwide.

The Federal Government should formulate a national integrated water network system similar to the national electricity distribution network, its chairman for public affairs sub-committee Tan Hook Chuan said.

Tan said it is also time to look into how Singapore conserves its water.

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