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UTM-Water/BM

UTM/ESB DEVELOPS PROGRAMME TO OPTIMISE WATER DISTRIBUTION

JOHOR BAHRU, April 16 (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), in cooperation with Equiventures Sdn Bhd (ESB), the company granted concession to manage the state's water resources, has developed a computer programme to optimise the river water supply to two treatment plants here.

UTM's Engineering Faculty Dean Associate Prof Dr Mohamed Azraai Kassim said today the project, initiated from a software they had produced, to maximise the flow of raw water from Sungai Johor and Sungai Layang to their respective treatment plants, had been carried out efficiently.

The French technology was used in the ESB-sponsored project, he told a media conference at UTM Skudai here.

He said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the research and the follow-up negotiations pertaining to water resources would be signed here on Saturday and witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mohamed Azraai said the software developed could also be applied to optimise the use of electricity, assess the water distribution to both plants and apply the global standard of water management.

The Sungai Layang treatment plant could supply 225 million litres of water a day while the Sungai Johor treatment plant has capacity to treat 157 million litres.

Both combined could meet about 80 per cent of the consumers' requirement in Johor Baharu, Kulai, Pasir Gudang and Gelang Patah.

Meanwhile, ESB Executive Director Mohamed Noor Abdul Salam said his company would invest about RM200 million to upgrade the plants with the application of the new technology on their third phase of development.

The French membrane technology used could also increase both plants' present production capacity.

Widely used in Europe, the French approach could also act as filtration against bacteria and virus contamination although the water drawn could have been polluted.

Mohamed Noor also called for the setting up of a National River Authority (NRA) with powers to protect rivers from pollution.

He said a long-term comprehensive and integrated approach was needed to deal with the present water crisis.

In viewing of the critical water situation that had assailed the Klang Valley, it was now imperative to set up the NRA, he added. -- BERNAMA

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