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Mahathir - Singapore

M'SIA-S'PORE WATER PACT NOT AFFECTED BY SHORTAGE, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 14 (Bernama) -- The water shortage in parts of the country will not affect the Malaysia-Singapore water agreement, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"No, I don't think so. We have enough water. The water shortage is in some places. So far there is no drying up of catchment areas that supply to Singapore, so there is no problem," he said replying to questions from reporters after opening a virtual reality exhibition here today.

The two countries are scheduled to sign an agreement for Malaysia to extend water supply to the island republic beyond 2061 upon expiry of existing contracts signed in 1961 and 1962.

Malaysia supplies 214 million litres of raw water daily to Singapore and buys back treated water from Singapore-owned plants in Johor.

The new water agreement was discussed by Dr Mahathir and his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong during the latter's visit to Kuala Lumpur in February and again at a bilateral meeting on the fringe of the recent Asia-Europe Meeting in London.

Dr Mahathir had said then that the two countries were nearing agreement on the matter.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who visited Singapore last week, said the fundamental issues on the new water agreement have been resolved.

He said Malaysia was committed to ensuring adequate supply to Singapore but the terms would be discussed later. -- BERNAMA

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