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Small is better, says Sahabat Alam

PENANG, Mon. - Small dams will be adequate to cater to the needs of people in particular areas, Sahabat Alam Malaysia president S.M. Mohd Idris said today.

He said proposals to build huge dams such as the one proposed for Jeniang by the Kedah Government would need to be studied in depth to ensure that the project did not endanger the environment.

"A smaller dam with enough capacity to facilitate water supply to the people in a particular area or sub-district will be a wiser proposition. It will not cause excessive damage to the environment, especially to the forests and catchment areas as would a huge dam," he said in a statement.

Smaller dams would also be cost effective and the savings could be utilised for other worthy causes.

He said such dams should be built not only to provide for daily consumption but also for irrigation.

He said if a water crisis hit the agricultural sector, the whole country would suffer food shortages.

He applauded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's instruction to the Agriculture Ministry to build more dams to irrigate padi fields and plantations.

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