

14 JUL 1998

Samy-Water

THREE KEY PAPERS ON WATER READY FOR TABLING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- Three working papers on inter-state water supply rates, criteria to build dams and measures to be taken to tackle water woes will be tabled at the second meeting of the National Water Resource Council headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the papers were completed last week for tabling at the meeting the date of which had not been fixed.

The first paper dwells on the common principles to be adopted by the state and federal governments in tackling water supply problems, he said.

The second paper contains details on water charges to be paid by the state or federal government to the state supplying water while the third is on the guiding principle to approve dam projects nation-wide, he said.

The quantum of compensation to be paid to landowners for land acquired for water projects had also been incorporated in the third paper, he told reporters after presenting excellent service awards to his ministry staff today.

The paper would also contain details on the implications of the water projects to the environment and development in surrounding areas, he said.

Samy Vellu said the relevant departments in the council have approved the working papers.

Asked to comment on plans to revive projects which had been postponed owing to the economic slowdown, he said his ministry might appeal to the Treasury for additional funds to complete deferred infrastructure projects.

He said priority would be given to water supply and continuation of uncompleted road projects, he added.

-- BERNAMA

AKT TS