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Treated water may be sold to Singapore under new pact

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SEGAMAT, Sat. - Malaysia hopes to supply treated water to Singapore in the near future, instead of selling it in its raw form like at present, under a new agreement being hammered out by the two countries, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

He said the Government was hopeful that there would no problem arising out of this as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had already hinted as much to his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong recently.

"There may be many new features in the agreement, as we prefer to export processed water to Singapore, and this is among the main agenda of the on-going discussions," he added.

Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, was speaking to reporters after launching the party's State-level Koperasi Didik Berhad at Dewan Jubli Intan here last night.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said in Singapore on Thursday that he did not think the high-level discussions would be on just continuing selling water to Singapore.

"There is now a proposal for the treatment of water in Johor," he told a Press conference after delivering a speech at the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce's luncheon.

"The fundamental issues have been resolved. There is commitment on the part of Malaysia to supply water to Singapore. But the terms, rates and mechanism are being discussed," Anwar had said.

Malaysia's agreement to continue supplying water to Singapore beyond the expiry dates of the 1961 agreement in 2011 and the 1962 agreement in 2061 was announced in February following a meeting in Kuala Lumpur between Dr Mahathir and his Singapore counterpart.

Singapore currently gets about 1.527 billion litres of untreated water daily from Johor at three sen per 4,540 litres.

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