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Khalil-Water

WATER-RICH PAHANG CONCLUDES STUDY ON INTER-STATE WATER SUPPLY

KUANTAN, July 1 (Bernama) -- Pahang, blessed with abundant water resources, has completed a study to channel water to several water-starved states with Selangor and Federal Territory to be given priority.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said findings of the study would be forwarded to the secretariat of the National Water Resource Council for its perusal.

He said the state government had agreed to give priority to channel water to Selangor and Federal Territory which were in dire need of additional sources of water to solve the prolonged water woes in the Klang Valley.

" I've given my commitment to supply water to the two states once the infrastructures are ready," he told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting here today.

He, however, said details of the infrastructure cost need to be discussed.

The National Water Resource Council, in its inaugural meeting on Monday chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had decided that the cost of raw or treated water must also be taken into account in calculating the infrastructure cost.

At the state level, Khalil said the state government would continue to protect water catchment areas, ensure water sources were pollution-free and conserve upper reaches of rivers.

The state government would also be careful in approving logging concessions and land clearing works to protect water catchment areas, he said.

Khalil said the state Drainage and Irrigation Department had also prepared a paper on river conservation in Pahang which would be handed to the National Water Resource Council secretariat.

On Pahang's water needs, he said the state government was studying the water requirements in new growth areas such as Bentong, Janda Baik, Mentakab, Genting Highlands and Cameron Highlands.

-- BERNAMA

ROS TS