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WATER FOR S'PORE:PRINCIPLE ISSUES RESOLVED, SAYS ANWAR

SINGAPORE, April 9 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the principle and fundamental issues on water supply from Malaysia to Singapore have been resolved.

"There is a firm commitment on the part of Malaysia to ensure adequate water supply to Singapore but the terms, rates and mechanics will be discussed later," Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, told a press conference here today.

"Even today there is a high-level meeting of officials from both countries in Kuala Lumpur to encounter the details," said Anwar, who was on a one-day working visit to Singapore.

The current Water Supply Agreement between both countries expires in 2061 and Singapore is negotiating for a new agreement to begin immediately.

Malaysia has entered into two agreements in 1961 and 1962 to supply water to Singapore, which will expire in 2011 and 2061 respectively. Another agreement was signed in 1990 to reaffirm this.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given an undertaking to his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong during the latter's visit to Malaysia in February that Malaysia would not cut off water supply or terminate the supply in any way, and that it would be maintained.

Mahathir had said that the undertaking on the new agreement was to be drawn up within 60 days of the February meeting, taking into account various aspects such as adequacy of water and cost. -- BERNAMA

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