

30/03/1998

Water woes will take time to solve: Dr M

Kamarul Yunus

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said efforts to overcome the current water shortage faced by several states, especially Selangor and the Federal Territory, will take time.

The problem will not be resolved overnight despite having Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim chair a top-level meeting today to seek solutions to the water shortage, he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur after launching the North Pole Freefall Expedition yesterday.

"We can take the necessary action or the rains will come but we cannot predict ... the El-Nino phenomenon does not inform us (when the drought would end)," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the current water crisis in several states in the country.

Heads of representatives of the various departments and agencies involved in water supply will meet at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall today.

The meeting is aimed at seeking solutions to the water shortage.

Representatives from City Hall, the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, the waterworks section of the Public Works Department, Puncak Niaga Bhd, Indah Water Konsortium and the Selangor Water Department are among those expected to attend.

Bernama reports: A paper on the current water shortage in several states will be submitted to the Cabinet on Wednesday, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said yesterday.

"Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants us to look into the matter urgently and all this will be discussed on Wednesday." he said.

He would also submit several proposals from various sources, including companies, at the high-level meeting with Anwar today, he told reporters after briefing MIC divisional leaders on Koperasi Didik Bhd (Kop Didik) in Kuala Lumpur.

(END)