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Water council to discuss two papers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The National Water Council which will hold its inaugural meeting on Monday, will discuss the water supply problem and seek ways to overcome it.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said two papers would be discussed at the meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and attended by Chief Ministers and Menteris Besar.

He said the council would explain the importance of having a sole water authority to manage water supply in the country. Presently, this is under the jurisdiction of State Governments.

"One of the papers will explain the need to set up the council and spell out its functions.

"It will also discuss ways to solve the water supply problem and deliberate on long-term measures."

Samy Vellu said the other paper would highlight the possibility of utilising alternative water resources available in each State.

"A study to identify underground water resources throughout the country will be conducted by a consultant, to be appointed by the Works Ministry. Once completed, it will be submitted to the council for further deliberation."

Samy Vellu also said the Government would not amend or introduce any new legislation as the National Water Council had the co-operation of all the States.

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