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GBRM TO SEND PROTEST MEMO TO PM OVER JOHOR WATER PRIVATISATION

JOHOR BA HARU, June 16 (Bernama) -- The Gabungan Bertindak Rakyat Malaysia (GBRM) will send a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad protesting the privatisation of water supply in Johor.

GBRM spokesman Dzulkefy Ahmad said the memorandum would protest the privatisation of the Johor-government owned Syarikat Air Johor (SAJ) to Lambang Optima Sdn Bhd (LOSB) which had formed a joint venture with Thames Water of Britain.

The protest to the Prime Minister was not politically motivated but was in the interest of the people of Johor, he told a news conference.

GBRM comprises three opposition political parties and eight Non-Governmental Organisations -- PAS, Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) and Keadilan and Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), Ulama Association of Malaysia (PUM), Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim), Jemaah Islam Malaysia (JIM), Urban Settlers Support Committee (JSPB), Peninsular Islamic Undergraduates Federation (GAMIS), National Islamic Students Association of Malaysia (PKPIM) and the Malaysian Students and Youth Democratic Federation (DEMA).

He said a copy of the memorandum would also be sent to the Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

The GBRM said it also wanted a dialogue with the Menteri Besar on this issue as it feared that the privatisation would lead to higher water tariffs.

Abdul Ghani announced on June 8 that the LOSB had selected Thames Water as its joint venture partner for the distribution of water in Johor as it had the expertise in water technology and also the financial strength.

-- BERNAMA

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