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PM: We're trying to meet demand

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Sungai Selangor dam project is being carried out to meet the increasing demand for piped water in the Klang Valley.

The Prime Minister said those against the project had given an impression that they were doing so to protect the interests of the Orang Asli community in the area.

"Those championing the rights of the Orang Asli were not concerned previously. They have highlighted the matter now and wish to take advantage of the situation," he said to reporters after handing over keys to buyers of Taman Bunga Raya low-cost housing project at Bukit Beruntung about 50km from here.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on the opposition from some quarters against the dam project, saying that it would displace two Orang Asli settlements in the area.

"Actually, they have no interest at all. (On the other hand) the Government looks into the welfare of Orang Asli."

Dr Mahathir said it would be easier if the people said that they did not want the additional water supply.

"The problem is that they want roads but (are) not willing to pay tolls, need water but do not want the dam to be built."

The RM1.96 billion dam, to be built across Sungai Selangor near Kuala Kubu Baru in Hulu Selangor, will be constructed by a consortium comprising Gamuda Berhad, Land and General's Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah and Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad.

The project is part of a water supply scheme called the Sungai Selangor Water Supply Scheme, Phase Three.

Besides the 110-metre dam, the project will involve the construction of two water treatment plants, a new road to replace the flooded portion of the Kuala Kubu Baru-Bukit Fraser road and the relocation of two Orang Asli settlements as well as the Pertak Youth Training Centre.

However, the construction of the dam would only begin after the Department of Environment approves the Environmental Impact Assessment report.

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