

# DPM: Malaysia won't lose if republic changes water source

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Malaysia does not stand to lose anything if Singapore chooses to procure water from elsewhere.

"It is not our loss and more over it is their choice," he said when asked for his comments on Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's recent remarks.

Goh reportedly told Parliament yesterday that the island nation must rely less on Malaysia for its water supply.

On bilateral relations and outstanding issues with Singapore, Abdullah said he believed there was a solution for every problem between the two countries.

"What we need is the spirit of cooperation and sincerity between us."

Singapore now buys 350 million gallons of raw water from Johor daily at 3 sen per 1,000 gallons under two agreements which will end in 2011 and 2061.

Abdullah also raised concerns over Singapore's decision to continue with its reclamation work.

"Notes have been sent and I hope that they will understand Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reaction.

If they show that they're unsympathetic, (then) it will hamper our relations," he pointed out.

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