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Water-Singapore

STOPPING WATER SUPPLY TO SINGAPORE IS MALAYSIA'S DECISION

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- The decision to stop the supply of raw water to Singapore after 2011 was made by the Johor and Malaysian governments a long time ago and is not something new, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today.

He said the Johor and Malaysian governments had in fact informed the Singapore government that the 1961 Water Agreement would not be renewed when it expired in 2011.

"Singapore was informed to this by the prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) in February 2001," he told a media conference after chairing the state executive council meeting here.

He was commenting on news reports that Singapore would not renew its 1961 Water Agreement with Malaysia when it expires in 2011.

Ghani said that the Johor government would also be taking over the three water treatment plants owned by the Singapore's Public Utilities Board (PUB) in Gunung Pulai, Sungai Skudai and Sungai Tebrau in Johor when the agreement expired in 2011.

Singapore was informed of the takeover during the negotiations on the package of issues between Malaysia and Singapore on July 1 and 2, he said.

He said the treatment plants would be used to supply Johor Baharu and areas west of Johor like Pontian district.

He also said that Johor would stop buying treated water from Singapore from next year.

Singapore is now buying RM2 million worth of raw water a year from Johor and Johor is buying back treated water totalling RM6 million a year.

"The revenue from the sale of water at 3 sen per 1,000 gallons amounts to only RM2 million a year and is not an important source of income for Johor," Ghani said.

MNY JK