

Khair: Federal govt should control water

STAR 13 JUN 2003

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor state government supports the proposal by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for water supply to be handled by the Federal Government.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said in view of the high cost required to develop infrastructure for water supply, it is only appro-

priate for the Federal Government to takeover water supply from the state-owned corporations.

"We have applied for a RM2bil loan from the Federal Government to replace the old pipes which has been identified as the main cause for murky water and low pressure and realistically it will be difficult

for the Selangor Water Management Corporation (Puas) to repay the sum," Dr Khir said.

He added that if the proposal went through Puas would either be dissolved or confined to overseeing the maintenance of water supply infrastructure or involved in water-related industry.

"We have to accept that

based on the existing financial capacity it will be very difficult for Puas to improve its service for Klang Valley residents so we will support the move for the Federal Government to takeover water supply," he said after meeting state government officers at the Selangor Youth and Cultural Centre here yesterday.