

Samy to meet states over water supply

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SUNGAI SIPUT: The Works Ministry will hold a meeting soon with all state governments and private water companies to discuss water supply.

Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the ministry was arranging the meeting to get feedback from the states, including Sabah and Sarawak, and private companies pertaining to the problems they faced over water supply.

He said a date had yet to be fixed for the meeting.

The respective state secretaries and state executive councillors in charge of utilities would represent the state governments during the meeting.

"They will be asked to furnish details on the amount of outstanding loans to the Federal Government taken to facilitate the supply of water to consumers thus far," he told reporters after attending a meeting with village heads here yesterday.

Samy Vellu said a report on this would be presented during the National Water Council meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Last Wednesday, Dr Maha-

thir had asked state governments to review whether they wanted to continue to be responsible for water supply.

He had added that the cost of developing infrastructure for water supply including the construction of new water treatment plants, was enormous resulting in them having to borrow money from the Federal Government which had not been settled.

On the memorandum of understanding signed between Malaysia and Turkey on Friday, Samy Vellu said Malaysia would be involved in eight projects in Turkey.

He added that all the eight projects would be water and energy-based ventures to be undertaken by contractor Ranhill Sdn Bhd with co-operation of the Construction Industry Development Board.

Samy Vellu added that he would be visiting Turkey next month to finalise all matters agreed in the MoU.

He said the ministry had already submitted the details of projects which could be deferred to the Economic Planning Unit as requested by Dr Mahathir last week.