

01 AUG 2003

Samy-Water

FEDERAL GOVT TO ABSORB LIABILITIES AFTER TAKING OVER JBA

NILAI, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- The Federal Government will absorb all of the Water Supply Department's (JBA) liabilities after it takes over water supply operations from States in the Peninsular, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

"Currently the State JBAs are shouldering millions of ringgit in debts and losses incurred from work to repair pipes, build treatment plants and curb water pilferage.

"When the running of water supply in all Peninsular States is taken over by the Federal Government, it will absorb all debts and liabilities of the State JBAs," he told reporters after opening a charity golf tournament near here.

He said in the case of State JBAs which had been corporatised, like PUAS in Selangor, their debts, too, would be taken over by the Federal Government.

Samy Vellu said the respective Chief Ministers and Menteri Besar had agreed in principle to the take-over by the Federal Government.

However, the taking over of the water supply operations involved amendments to the respective State enactments which would take years to complete, he said.

"When the necessary acts and enactments are amended, then the take-over can proceed," added Samy Vellu.

The National Water Council meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in Putrajaya last Tuesday had proposed that the Federal Government take over the water supply operations from the State JBAs, except in Sabah and Sarawak.

-- BERNAMA

APG ZUL SRI