

18 JUN 2003

Kelantan-Water

KELANTAN NO TO WATER MANAGEMENT BY FED GOVT

KOTA BAHARU, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan government have decided they will not hand over the management of the state's clean water to the federal government.

State Works, Infrastructure and Environment Committee chairman Ahmad Yaacob said the government, through Kelantan Menteri Besar Incorporated, were still able to manage the water well.

"We (the government) have seen the burden in preparing and managing water when there are huge debts, but we will carry out programmes in Kelantan according to our abilities," he told reporters after the state executive council meeting here today.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the federal government would take over the responsibility of developing and supplying clean water in Kelantan following the state government's failure to meet the high infrastructure development costs.

Ahmad said the state government had spent RM291 million of the RM600 million soft loan from the federal government to develop a clean water supply for the people.

He said the state government would be able to repay the loan by the stipulated date in 2010.

Meanwhile, State Public Administration, Housing and Local Government Committee chairman Takiyuddin Hassan said 292 low and medium-cost houses as well as 28 shop houses would be built in Wakaf Mek Zainab with the help of the private sector.

He said 137 units of those structures, under the public housing programme, would also be built in Gua Musang.

"The state government provides the land while construction costs are borne by the private sector," he said.

-- BERNAMA

BD EMK