

13 JUN 2003

MWA WELCOMES CALL TO REVIEW WATER SUPPLY STATUS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Water Association (MWA) today supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for state governments to review their responsibility for water supply.

"MWA is in full support of the statement by the Prime Minister on the issue of huge capital expenditures involved in water resources and supply that should be addressed seriously for the benefit of the consumers," its president, Datuk Syed Muhammad Shahabudin, said in a statement here.

He said that the MWA is willing and prepared to assist the government to ensure that the issue is being addressed and resolved without burdening the consumers unnecessarily.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister urged state governments to review whether they want to continue to be responsible for water supply in their respective states as the cost of developing infrastructure for water supply is enormous.

The situation, said Dr Mahathir, resulted in the state government having to borrow money from the federal government and the loan is too massive that the state government would not be able to pay back the loan "forever".

Apart from that, MWA also urged the government to seriously study the overall administrative and financial issues related to water resources and supply in order to have a more efficient management of water resources and supply in the future.

-- BERNAMA

SNS AHH RM