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Samy-Water

SAMY VELLU TO MEET MBs, CMs ON WATER ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu will meet Menteris Besar, Chief Ministers, state executive councillors and companies involved in water supply to discuss problems they faced.

Samy Vellu said the meeting would be held before he meets Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to discuss water supply problems in the country.

He was speaking to reporters after launching a book and a video compact disc (VCD) entitled "Sinthanai Thuligal" here today.

The book and VCD contain advice for the Indian community.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday state governments have been asked to review whether they wanted to continue to be responsible for water supply as they were unable to do so from the financial aspect.

He had said the cost of developing infrastructure for water supply, including the construction of new treatment plants, was enormous, which had resulted in the state governments having to borrow money from the Federal Government.

Samy Vellu said state governments need between RM2.5 billion and RM3 billion to overcome water supply woes in the states.

This included solving problems like pipe leakage, water theft and replacing old pipes with new and durable ones, he said.

Samy Vellu said state governments should consider Dr Mahathir's suggestion as there was high demand for water in the country.

He said if the Federal Government took over the water supply from state governments, it would not affect Malaysia's water supply to Singapore.

"Malaysia will stick to its water agreement with Singapore," he said.

Singapore currently buys raw water from Johor.

-- BERNAMA

MPA SSA TS