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Two states ink water deal

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CRISIS AVERTED:

Malacca to supply 5,000 cubic metres per day to Negri Sembilan

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Malacca and Negri Sembilan state governments on the supply of treated water to help overcome water shortages in Negri Sembilan.

The agreement was signed by Syarikat Air Melaka Berhad (SMAB) chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Khalid Nasir, while Syarikat Air Negeri Sembilan Sdn Bhd (SAINS) was represented by its director, Wan Rosdi Wan Ismail.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron, who was present at the ceremony, gave his assurance that the Malacca government would continue to help Negri Sembilan tackle its water crisis, provided there was excess water in its own dams.



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak**, flanked by Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan** (left) and Malacca Chief Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Haron**, in Putrajaya yesterday. Bernama pic

Present was Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

The agreement touched on several matters, including the maximum supply of 5,000 cubic metres of treated water a day for 5,000 households in Tampin and 100 in Batang Melaka, Negri Sembilan.

"So long as we have excess treated water, we will channel it to SAINS. However, if the water level at the Bukit Tiga pond (for supply to Tampin) drops below 4m, we will

have to stop the supply," Idris said.

He said the treated water was supplied from the Gadek water treatment plant that received its raw water from the Jus dam. The agreed purchase rate was RM1.40 per cubic metre.

The chief minister said water consumers in affected areas had started getting their supply since March 1.

"As stipulated in the agreement, SMAB is supplying treated water to SAINS starting March 1 to June 1."

It was reported that the water

was channelled through a 15m-long T-junction pipe installed at Pulau Sebang, which is the state border.

Malacca had sought the assistance of the Negri Sembilan government when it faced a water crisis in 1991 and was willing to help its neighbour now that it faced a similar situation, Idris said.

The water crisis faced by residents in Tampin and Rembau was due to lack of untreated water supply to the Gemencheh Dam because of insufficient rainfall.