

**Incumbent Upon PAS Government To Provide Quality Water In Kelantan - Mustapa Bernama
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JELI, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said today it is incumbent upon the PAS-led state government to provide quality water for the sake of the people's health and to retain investors.

The international trade and industry minister said the state government has to ensure that the potable water is on par with that supplied in the other states because the official data of the Malaysian Water Industry Guide 2011 shows that the quality of water in Kelantan is the worst in the country.

Mustapa said poor water quality could spark infectious diseases in the people.

"State Health Department statistics show a high rate of water-related diseases in Kelantan. We ask the relevant authorities to take immediate steps before it is too late," he told reporters after meeting support staff of the State Education Department at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bukit Bunga, here.

Mustapa said the biggest threat to the health of the Kelantan people is the amounts of arsenic metal, manganese and iron in excess of the permissible level set by the Health Ministry's 2009 Drinking Water Quality Standard.

In Bachok, Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee deputy chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin said supplying clean water has been a main problem in Kelantan since PAS came to power in the state.

The deputy finance minister said that besides affected the people's health, it is also frightening away potential investors, especially in the textile and electronic industries.

"Not tackling this issue will be detrimental to public health and investors who rely on clean water. For example, quality water is needed to clean electronic equipment and we see that investors refuse to invest here, citing unclean water as a reason," he told reporters after launching the "Prihatin 1Malaysia" programme.

He said the never-ending water issue will weaken government efforts to attract foreign investors to the state, as well as efforts to create job opportunities for the community.

Dr Awang Adek advised the people to give the Barisan Nasional a chance in the next general election so that it can resolve the water problem once and for all.

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