

**National Water Resources Policy To Ensure Adequate Water Supply In 2010-2015 -
Muhyiddin
Bernama
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PARIT BUNTAR, March 24 (Bernama) -- The National Water Resources Policy (DSAN) for the period 2010 until 2050 aimed at determining the future direction for the water resources sector based on a review of the national water resources was launched today.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in his speech at the launching ceremony, said the DSAN was an important initiative towards starting a process to ensure the security of water supply in the era of economic development especially in the agriculture and industrial sectors, the growth of urban centres as well as the rapid increase in the population.

"This policy also stipulates on the basic principles of the national water resources which touched on the issue 'Water for Food and Rural Development' clearly. This principle emphasised on the need for adequate water resources to guarantee sufficient food supply besides helping to upgrade the development of rural areas," he said.

He said this in his speech at the launching of World Water Day 2012 at the national level as well as the launch of the DSAN near the Dataran Sungai Kerian, here. The text of his speech was read by the Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui.

The Deputy Prime Minister hoped that the strategic measure to identify and increase national water resources would be intensified further including finding alternative water sources which had the potential of catering to the demand for water in Malaysia such as underground water.

"Initial reports by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations revealed that the density of underground water in Malaysia is estimated to be 5,000 billion square metres with a commercial value of RM7.5 trillion," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Chairman of the National Commission of UNESCO Malaysia, said he hoped that a study and systematic and comprehensive development of underground water, in line with the methods of integrated water management, could be intensified to assist in realising guaranteed water supply and subsequently food supply security in the country in future.

He said the problem of guaranteed food supply was becoming more serious due to the limited natural resources such as water.

Competition in water consumption was also increasing with the economic sector and other industries facing the impact from the changing climate which would result in droughts in some countries and floods in the other countries, he said.

He said that the crisis in food supply and prices in 2008 had increased wareness among many countries including Malaysia to further strengthen their food supply security

particularly to meet the domestic demand for the sake of national development and prosperity.

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