

**Imported Water From Malaysia Remains Essential Part Of Singapore's Water Supply –
Minister
Bernama
7 March, 2014
By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah**

SINGAPORE, March 7 (Bernama) -- Despite investing considerably in developing Singapore's four different water sources known as the Four National Taps, imported water from Malaysia remains an essential part of the republic's water supply, says Minister of Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan.

(Four National Taps includes water from local catchment areas, imported water, reclaimed water known as NEWater and desalinated water).

"Whilst we aim to attain water self-sufficiency before the expiry of the 1962 Water Agreement in 2061, in the meantime, we expect all parties to uphold the current agreement for as long as it is in force," he said in reply to a question in Parliament here Friday.

Ellen Lee of Sembawang GRC, had asked the minister whether Singapore still needed to buy raw water from Malaysia, given the capabilities that it had developed in NEWater and desalination.

In response to another question from Jurong GRC David Ong Kim Huat who asked the minister on the impact of the current prolonged dry and hot spell on the republic's water supply, Balakrishnan said:

"Assuming all of us do our part and we can keep a lid, or even better still, bring down the demand, then I can tell you, that for the foreseeable future, there will be no operational need for rationing."

He said the republic's national water agency, PUB, had been making major investments to build up and diversify the republic's water supply sources to strengthen water security.

This, he said, led to the introduction of NEWater and desalinated water into Singapore's water supply in the last decade.

"This supplements our local catchment; that means, our 17 reservoirs, as well as the water that we import from Johor."

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2014 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1020131>